X-MEN GRAND DESIGN

BY ED PISKOR

MARVEL

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A **MARVEL** COMIC

X-MEN CREATED BY STAN LEE AND JACK KIRBY

SR. MANAGER, DIGITAL TIM SMITH 3

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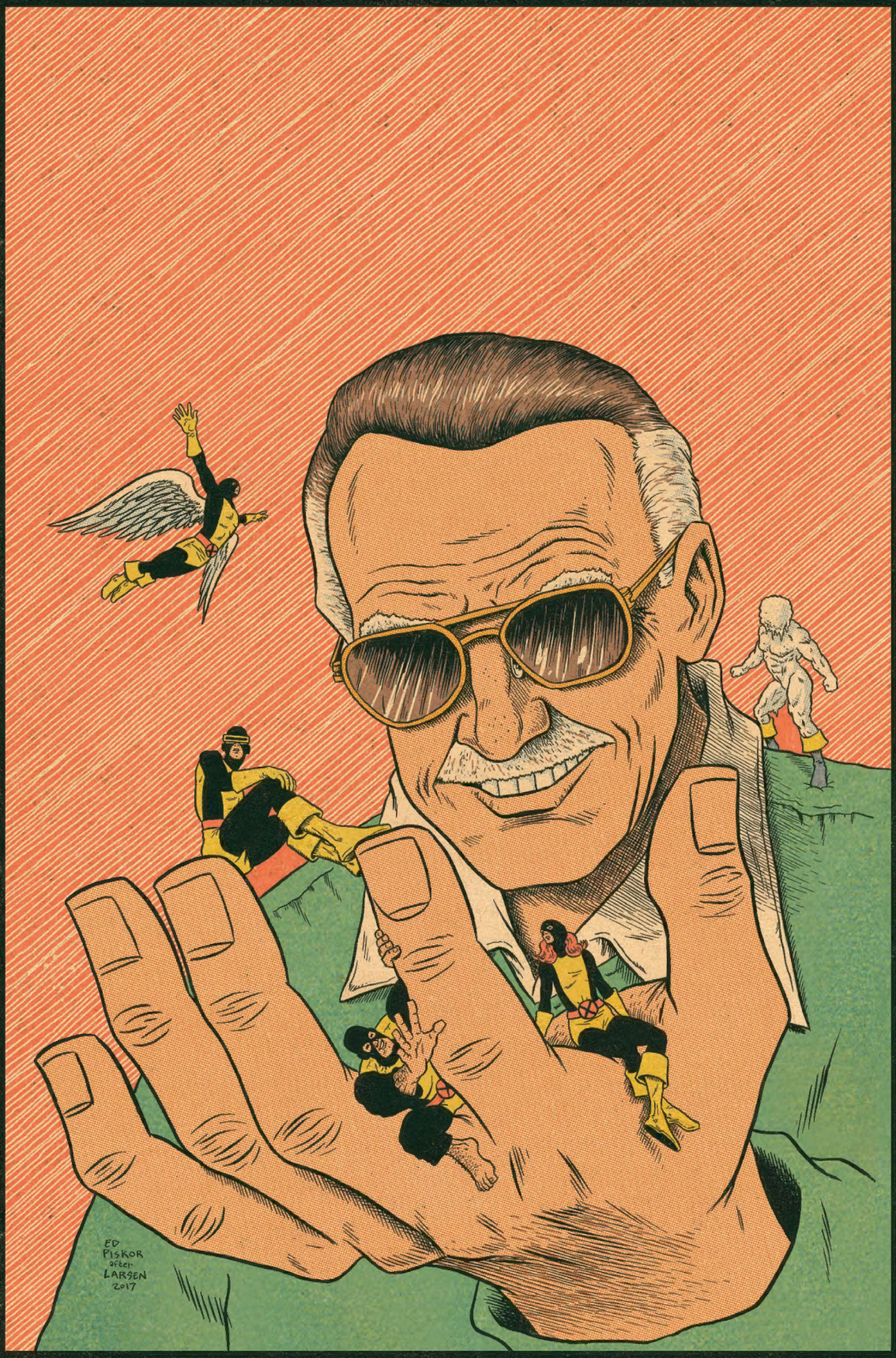
DEAR READER,
I HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS LOVE LETTER. IT WAS MADE WITH YOU IN MIND.
SINCERELY,
EDDIE P.

EPISODE 1
PHYSICS
ED PISKOR


ED
PISKOR
after
LARSEN
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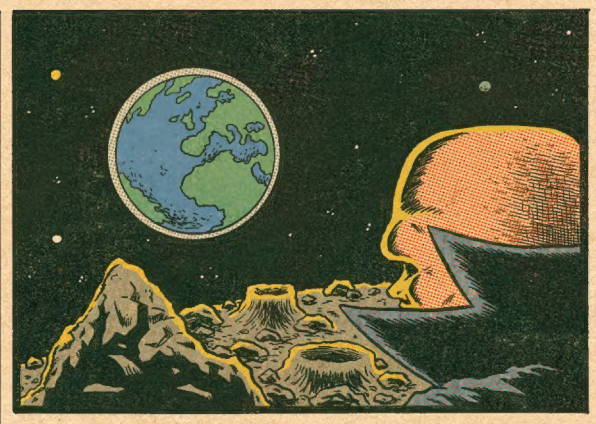
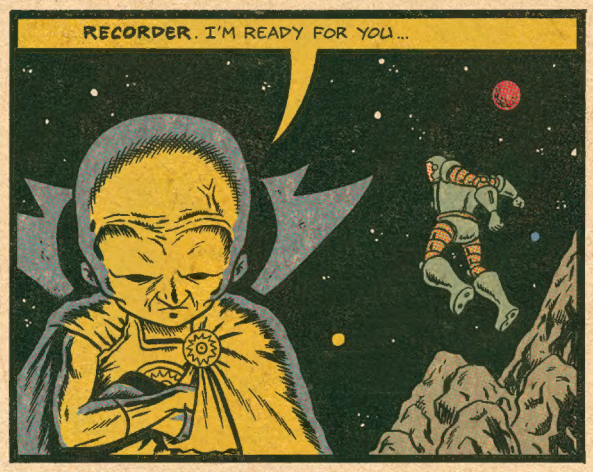
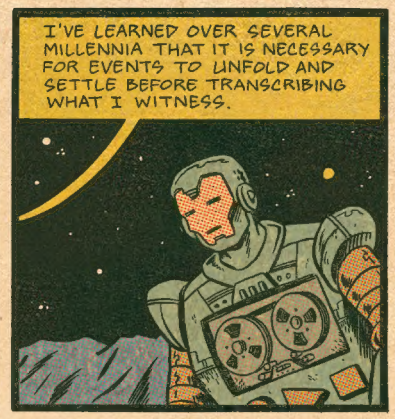
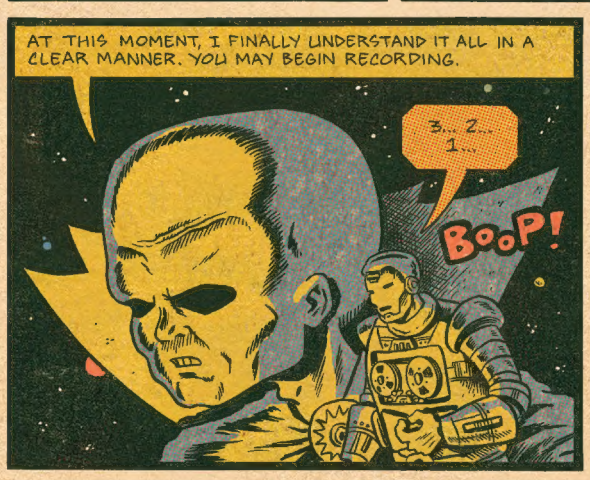



RECORDER. I'M READY FOR YOU...

PERFECT TIMING, WATCHER. ETERNITY HAS BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR PRODUCTIVITY.


I'VE LEARNED OVER SEVERAL MILLENNIA THAT IT IS NECESSARY FOR EVENTS TO UNFOLD AND SETTLE BEFORE TRANSCRIBING WHAT I WITNESS.

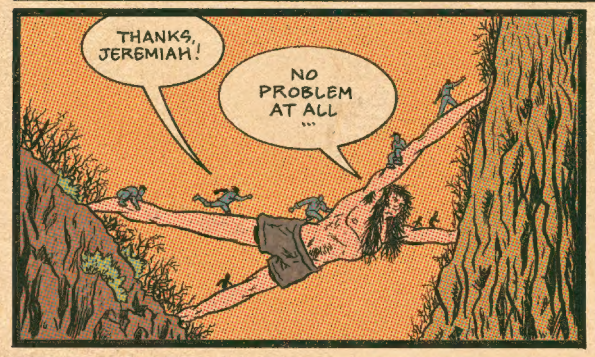
THERE WERE MANY MECHANISMS AT PLAY WITH THESE PARTICULAR SUBJECTS. MUCH I NEEDED TO DIGEST AND MAKE SENSE OF.

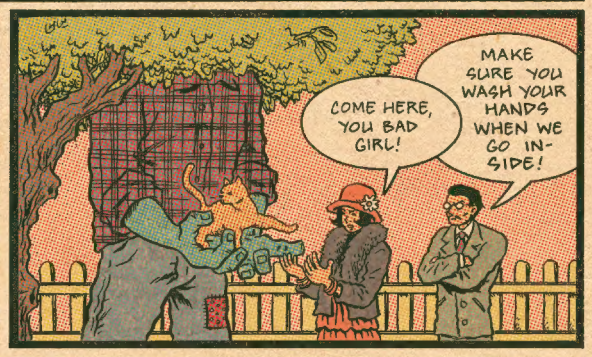

AT THIS MOMENT, I FINALLY UNDERSTAND IT ALL IN A CLEAR MANNER. YOU MAY BEGIN RECORDING.
3... 2... 1...
BOOP!

I'LL NOW DISCLOSE EVERYTHING I'VE OBSERVED ABOUT A VERY EXTRAORDINARY PANTHEON OF MUTANTS...

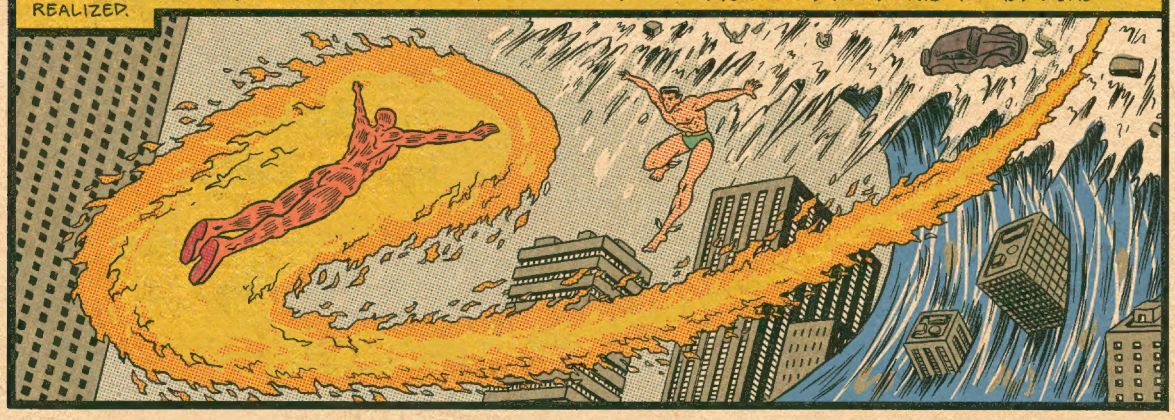
"MUTANT" IS OFTEN VERBALIZED AS A PEJORATIVE TERM, EVEN THOUGH THE VERY BASIS OF HUMAN EVOLUTION REQUIRES MUTATION FOR ADAPTING TO NEW, HARSH CONDITIONS.

FOR THE SAKE OF SELF-PRESERVATION, GENETICALLY MUTATED "PARA-HUMANS" WOULD ROUTINELY OVEREXTEND THEMSELVES TO KEEP IN THE GOOD GRACES OF THE MASSES.

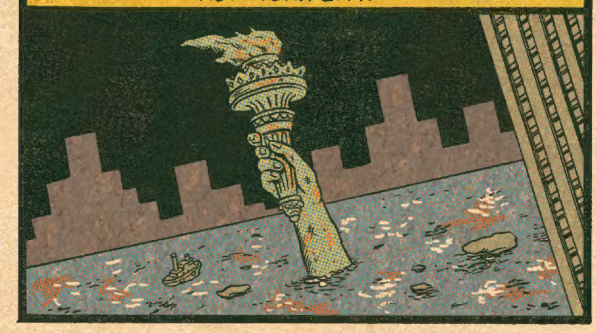




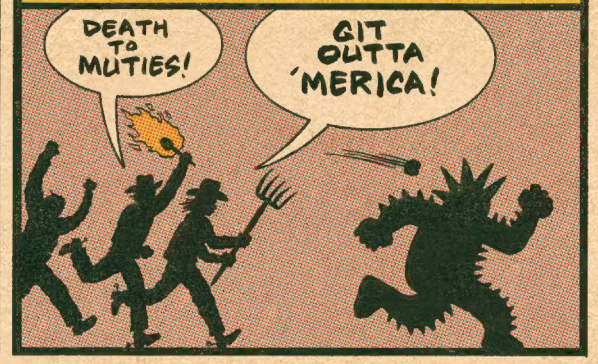
THE TENSION BETWEEN HUMANS AND MUTANTS WAS PALPABLE FOR CENTURIES, BUT PREJUDICES LARGELY REMAINED UNDER THE SURFACE, UNTIL ONE FATEFUL DAY IN THE 1900S WHEN EVERYONE'S WORST NIGHTMARES WERE REALIZED.



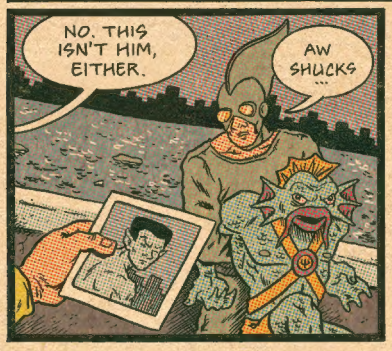
IN JUST A FEW HOURS THE NOTORIOUS MUTANT **NAMOR THE SUB-MARINER** WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR KILLING TENS OF THOUSANDS AND DISPLACING MILLIONS IN THE HEART OF **NEW YORK CITY.**



EXTREME FEAR SEEMS TO HAVE EASE IN BLURRING THE VISION OF OTHERWISE REASONABLE PEOPLE.

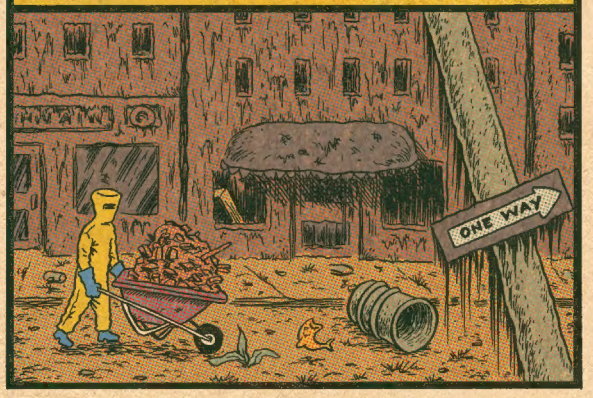


ON THE **50TH** NIGHT **NEW YORK** REMAINED SUBMERGED UNDERWATER, THE IDEALISTIC HEROES OF THE TIME CONCEDED THAT THERE WERE NO MORE **SURVIVORS** TO LOCATE AND THEIR MISSION **TRANSFORMED**...

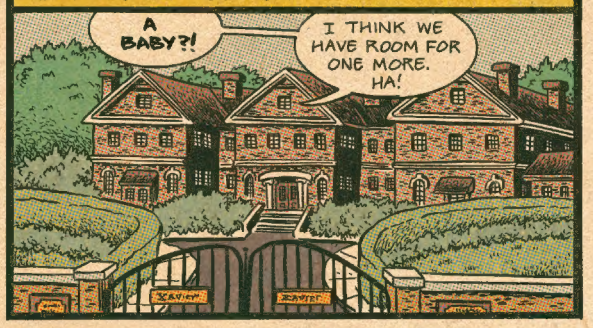


NO PERSON OR ORGANIZATION COULD FIGURE OUT HOW TO DIVERT THE PUTRID, STAGNANT, POISONOUS WATER FROM THE CITY UNTIL A PAIR OF SCIENTISTS, **SHARON** AND **BRIAN XAVIER**, DEVELOPED A TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTION TO THIS CATASTROPHE.

IT ONLY TOOK A FEW DAYS TO DRY OUT THE AREA, BUT IT TOOK MORE THAN A DECADE TO GET **NEW YORK CITY** BACK INTO SHAPE.

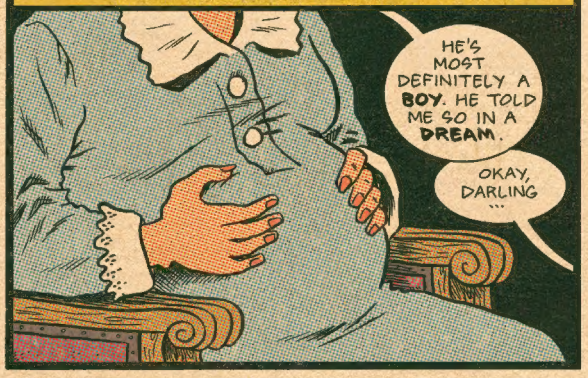


THE **XAVIERS'** GENIUS WAS HANDSOMELY REWARDED WHEN THE WEAPONS MANUFACTURER **STARK INDUSTRIES** BOUGHT THEIR TECHNOLOGY AND KEPT THEM ON RETAINER.

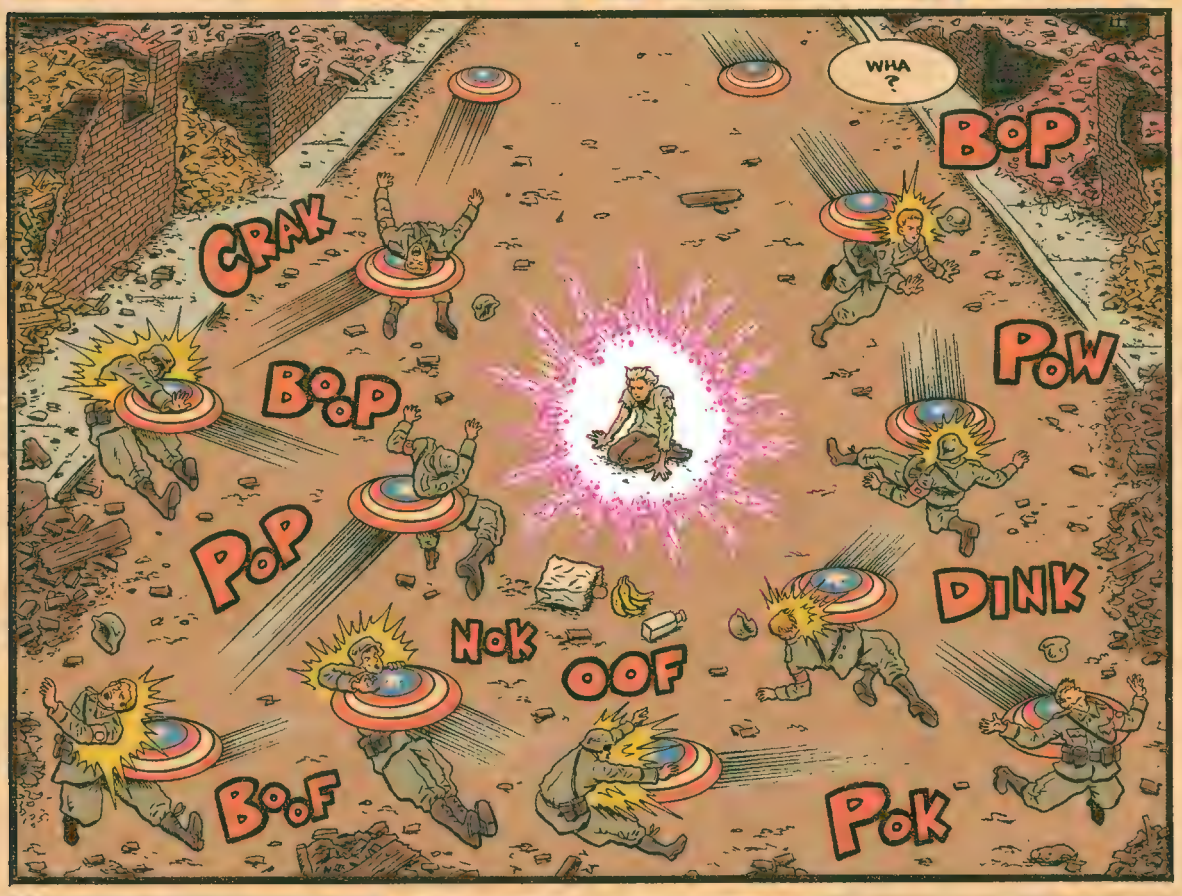


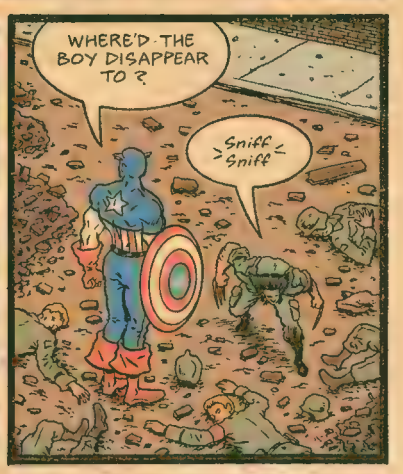
THE **UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT** SOON COMMISSIONED **STARK** ON A PROJECT TO SPLIT THE ATOM FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. THE FIRST PHONE CALL **HOWARD STARK** MADE WAS TO THE **XAVIERS**.

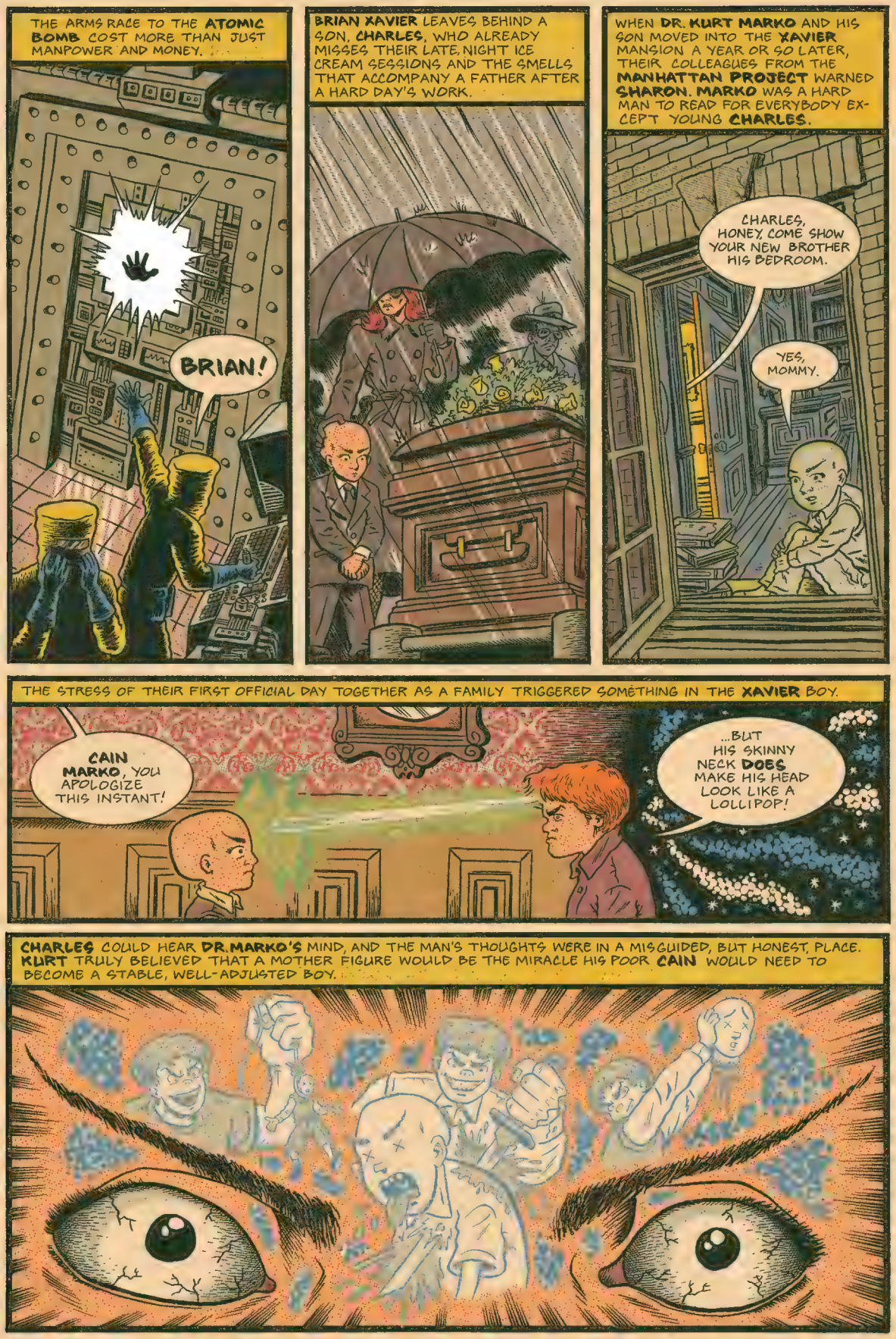
DESPITE ALL THEIR INTELLIGENCE, THE YOUNG COUPLE NEVER CONSIDERED THE EFFECT THAT THEIR WORK ENVIRONMENT WOULD HAVE ON THEIR OFFSPRING.



WITHOUT EVEN BRINGING **MUTANTS** INTO THE EQUATION, **HUMANITY** HAS HAD NO TROUBLE FINDING CONFLICT AMONGST EACH OTHER. EVERY GENERATION SEEMS TO DEFINE THEMSELVES BY THE WARS OF THEIR ERA.






THE ARMS RACE TO THE ATOMIC BOMB COST MORE THAN JUST MANPOWER AND MONEY.
BRIAN!
BRIAN XAVIER LEAVES BEHIND A SON, CHARLES, WHO ALREADY MISSES THEIR LATE NIGHT ICE CREAM SESSIONS AND THE SMELLS THAT ACCOMPANY A FATHER AFTER A HARD DAY'S WORK.
WHEN DR. KURT MARKO AND HIS SON MOVED INTO THE XAVIER MANSION A YEAR OR SO LATER, THEIR COLLEAGUES FROM THE MANHATTAN PROJECT WARNED SHARON. MARKO WAS A HARD MAN TO READ FOR EVERYBODY EXCEPT YOUNG CHARLES.
CHARLES, HONEY, COME SHOW YOUR NEW BROTHER HIS BEDROOM.
YES, MOMMY.
THE STRESS OF THEIR FIRST OFFICIAL DAY TOGETHER AS A FAMILY TRIGGERED SOMETHING IN THE XAVIER BOY.
CAIN MARKO, YOU APOLOGIZE THIS INSTANT!
...BUT HIS SKINNY NECK DOES MAKE HIS HEAD LOOK LIKE A LOLLIPOP!
CHARLES COULD HEAR DR. MARKO'S MIND, AND THE MAN'S THOUGHTS WERE IN A MISGUIDED, BUT HONEST, PLACE. KURT TRULY BELIEVED THAT A MOTHER FIGURE WOULD BE THE MIRACLE HIS POOR CAIN WOULD NEED TO BECOME A STABLE, WELL-ADJUSTED BOY.

MAGNUS WASN'T SURE HOW HE WAS ABLE TO EVADE CAPTURE BY POSSESSING CAPTAIN AMERICA'S SHIELD...
HE WONDERS, IF HE TRIED HARD ENOUGH, COULD HE DO IT AGAIN. THEN HE DOESN'T DO MUCH THINKING AT ALL...
HE COULDN'T DISCERN WHETHER HE WAS COMATOSE FOR HOURS, DAYS OR WEEKS.
AFTER REGAINING HIS SENSES, MAGNUS CHARTED THE MONTHS OF HIS INCARCERATION BY SCRATCHING A METAL NAIL INTO HIS PLYWOOD SLEEPING AREA.
ARBEIT MACHT FREI
HALT
EACH NIGHT HE WOULD WAIT LATE ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE TO SLEEP SO THAT HE COULD TRACK HIS PROGRESS WITHOUT EVER TOUCHING THAT NAIL.
THE NAZIS WOULD FALL INTO A PREDICTABLE ROUTINE WHEN TIME PASSED WITHOUT INCIDENT.
MAGNUS DISCOVERED IT ACTUALLY WASN'T THAT DIFFICULT TO COMMAND AND CONTROL FERROUS METALS AFTER PLENTY OF PRACTICE.
< KEEP SILENT, MAGDA ... >

EVERYBODY THOUGHT **CHARLES XAVIER'S** NEW HOMELIFE WAS THE CAUSE OF HIS POOR PERFORMANCE IN SCHOOL...

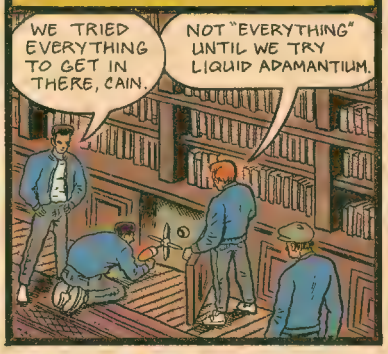
I WONDER IF GINNY LIKES ME? OH NO. IF HE FIGHTS ME NEAR THE NEIGHBORHOOD I'LL GET MY BIGGER BROTHER TO HELP. THAT IS SO HORRIBLE. YO GS AS ME ON PURPOSE. IF MRS. PARKER GAVE ME T CHANCE. SIXTEEN TOMORROW! W CAN I THINK ABOUT MATH WITH JENNY S IN FRONT OF ME LIKE THIS? SOMEDAY I'L OSS. THAT WILL SHOW THEM. DOES HE E MY FRECKLES? I DON'T THINK ANYBODY MELLED IT. T BELIEVE JACOB. W CAN E JUST WALK BY ME LIKE THAT? THAT'S PRETTY FU HOW DID HE HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO ASK FOR HER NUMBER LIKE THAT? BALD KID'S A FREAK! SO WEIRD.

IT PROVED TO BE MORE PRODUCTIVE ACADEMICALLY FOR THE BOY TO IMMERSE HIMSELF AT HOME IN AN AUTODIDACTIC FASHION.

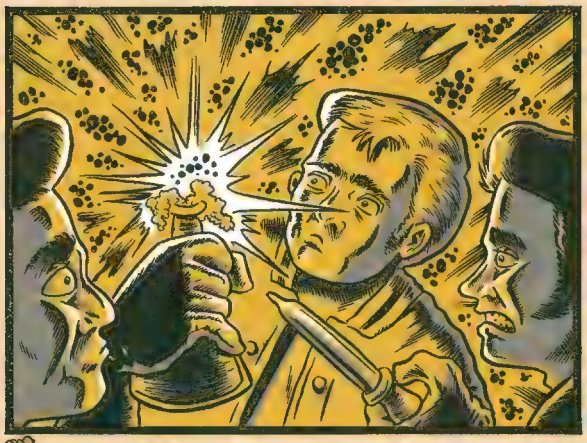
IF **CHARLES** EVER LET HIS GUARD DOWN, THE DREAMS, NIGHTMARES, AND FANTASIES OF HIS FAMILY WOULD SEEP INTO HIS OWN SUBCONSCIOUS.

IRONICALLY, THE ONLY TIME THAT **CHARLES** COULD COUNT ON BEING FREE FROM **CAIN MARKO'S** DEMENTED MIND WAS DURING THOSE LATE NIGHTS...

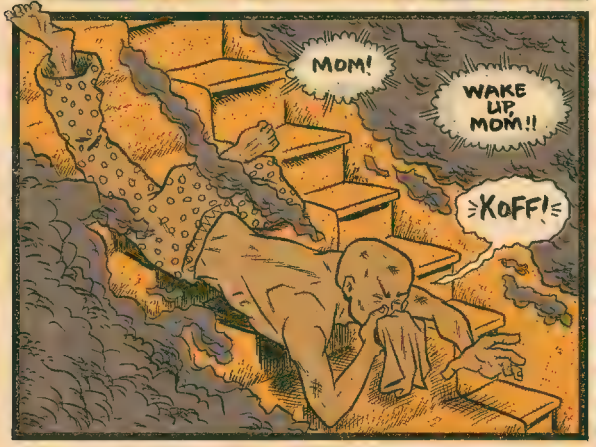
WHEN **CAIN** WAS AT **XAVIER MANSION**, HE HAD A SINGLE PREOCCUPATION IN **CHARLES'** FAVORITE ROOM.



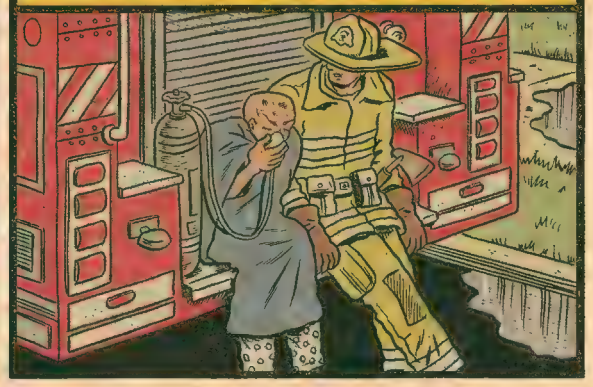
CHARLES XAVIER'S SECOND FAVORITE ROOM WAS THE LABORATORY IN THE SUB-BASEMENT WHERE HIS PARENTS WOULD SHOW THE BOYS ALL MANNER OF ALCHEMY.

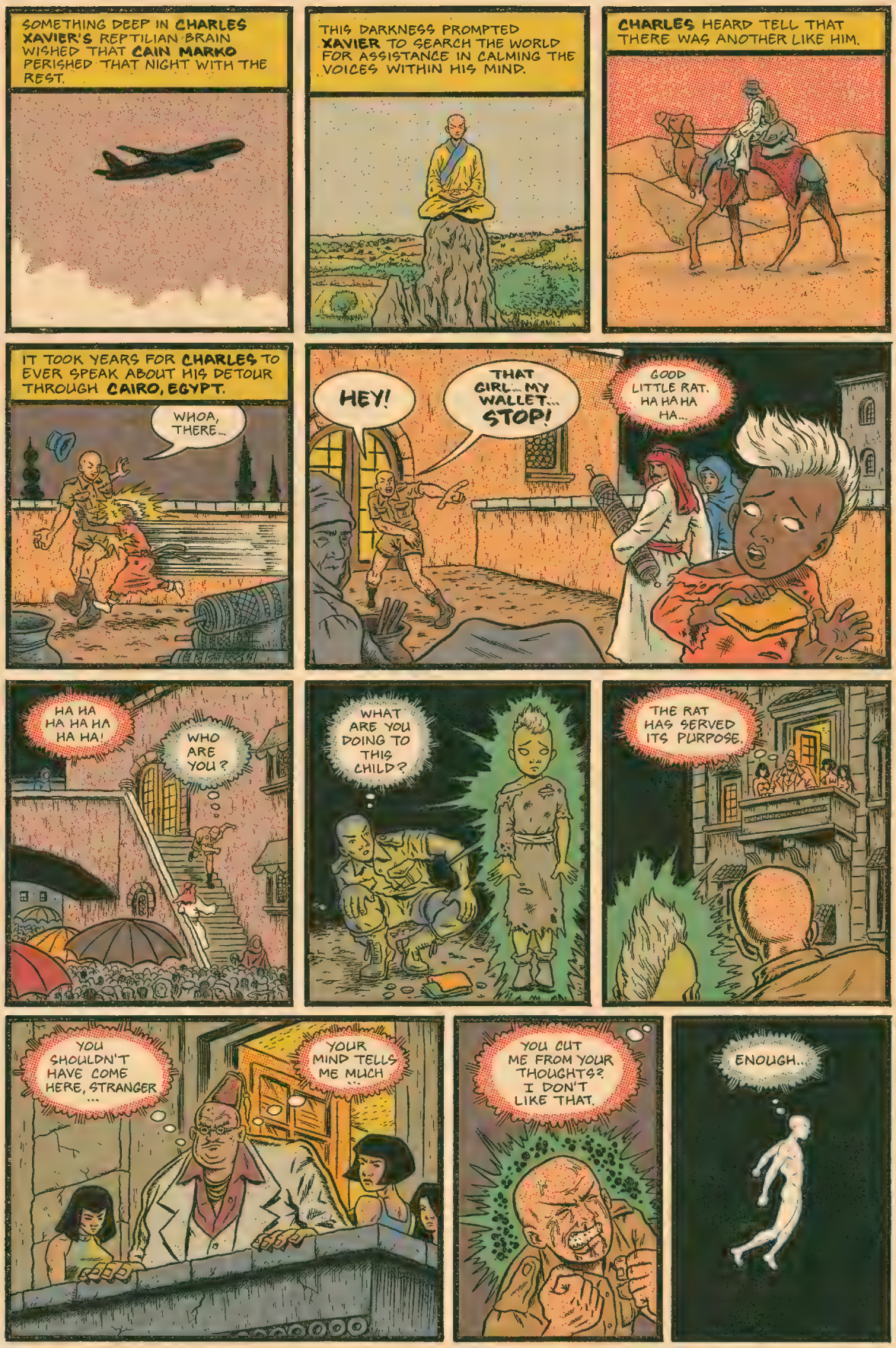


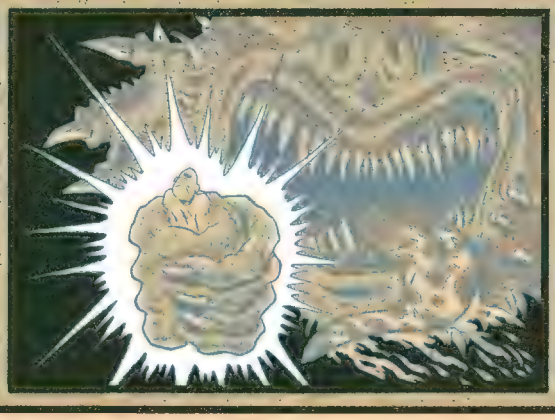
THE ESTATE RESTED AT THE NORTHEASTERN TIP OF **WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK**, ABOUT 40 MINUTES AWAY FROM THE NEAREST FIRST RESPONDERS.

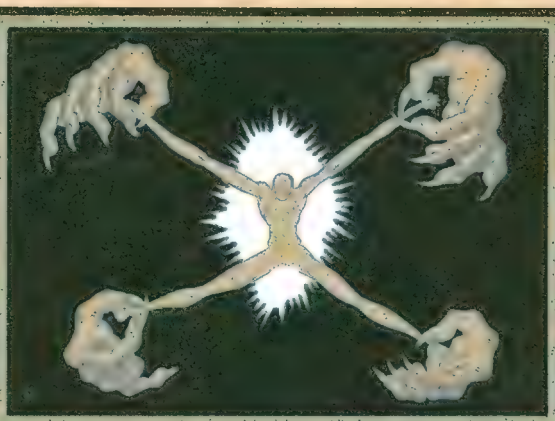


CHARLES DIDN'T HAVE TO READ THE FIREFIGHTER'S THOUGHTS TO KNOW WHAT HE WAS ABOUT TO SAY.




SOMETHING DEEP IN CHARLES XAVIER'S REPTILIAN BRAIN WISHED THAT CAIN MARKO PERISHED THAT NIGHT WITH THE REST.
THIS DARKNESS PROMPTED XAVIER TO SEARCH THE WORLD FOR ASSISTANCE IN CALMING THE VOICES WITHIN HIS MIND.
CHARLES HEARD TELL THAT THERE WAS ANOTHER LIKE HIM.
IT TOOK YEARS FOR CHARLES TO EVER SPEAK ABOUT HIS DETOUR THROUGH CAIRO, EGYPT.
WHOA, THERE...
HEY!
THAT GIRL... MY WALLET... STOP!
GOOD LITTLE RAT. HA HA HA HA...
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO THIS CHILD?
THE RAT HAS SERVED ITS PURPOSE.
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE, STRANGER...
YOUR MIND TELLS ME MUCH...
YOU CUT ME FROM YOUR THOUGHTS? I DON'T LIKE THAT.
ENOUGH...





IT TOOK TIME, RESOURCEFULNESS, AND HARD WORK, BUT **MAGNUS** AND **MAGDA** BUILT A TOLERABLE LIFE TOGETHER AFTER THEY GOT THE STENCH OF THE CAMPS OUT OF THEIR PORES.

...MAGNUS!

IT'S BEEN A YEAR AND STILL NOBODY WILL SPEAK TO ME...

OF COURSE, THIS DOESN'T MEAN THEY'LL EVER BE ABLE TO FORGET THE ATROCITIES.

THEY TURN THEIR NOSES UP AT ME... AT YOUR DAUGHTER!

WE'RE STILL NEW TO THIS COMMUNITY. THEY'RE A VERY PRIVATE PEOPLE...

MAGNUS HAS NO REAL TRADE, BUT HE WOULD BREAK HIS BACK TO PROVIDE FOR HIS FAMILY, AND THE TOWNSPEOPLE KNOW IT.

BUT, SIR, THIS IS ONLY HALF THE PAY THAT YOU PROMISED?!

BAH! IT'S PLENTY FOR **YOU!**

BUT... **BUT, PLEASE!!** PLEASE DON'T WALK AWAY, SIR. **SIR!!**

PLEASE JUST PAY ME WHAT YOU PROMISED, SIR...

YES... YES, I'LL PAY...

HEY, WHAT IS THIS?

THE OTHER FARMHANDS TOOK QUICK CONSENSUS AND DECIDED **MAGNUS** MUST BE A WARLOCK.

BY THE TIME HE WAS ABLE TO SCRAPE HIMSELF OUT OF THE MUD AND HEAD HOME...

MAGDA...

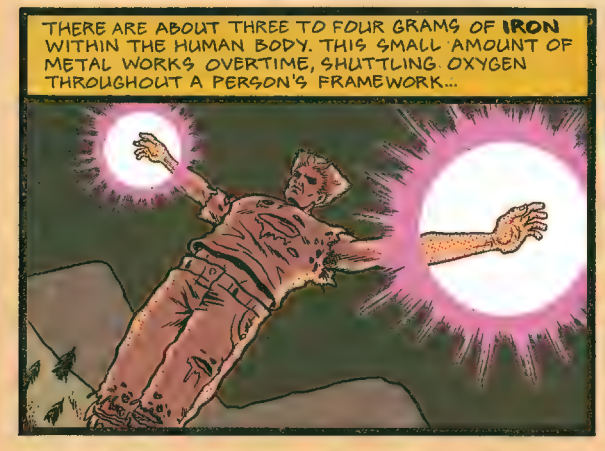
ANYA...

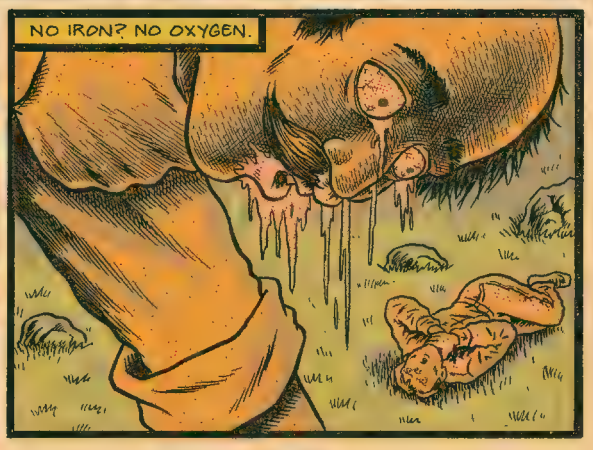
NO...

HOW IS IT STILL ALIVE?
UNGODLY CREATURE...
GET YOUR KNIFE, ELIAS.
YES...

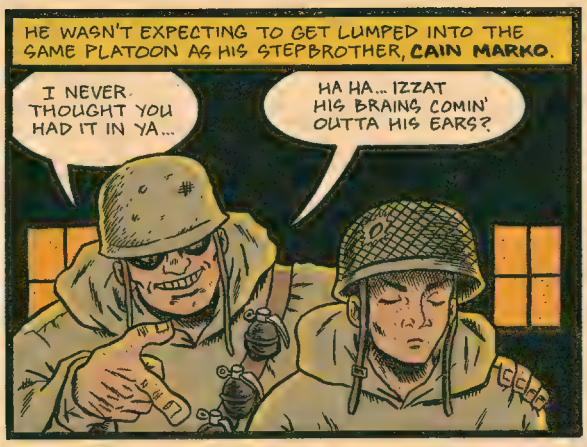
IF WE DON'T TAKE ITS HEAD OFF...
...IT WILL HAUNT THE VILLAGE ETERNALLY...
YES...

HERE, ELIAS...
...COME SLIT ITS THROAT...
YES.


THERE ARE ABOUT THREE TO FOUR GRAMS OF IRON WITHIN THE HUMAN BODY. THIS SMALL AMOUNT OF METAL WORKS OVERTIME, SHUTTLING OXYGEN THROUGHOUT A PERSON'S FRAMEWORK...

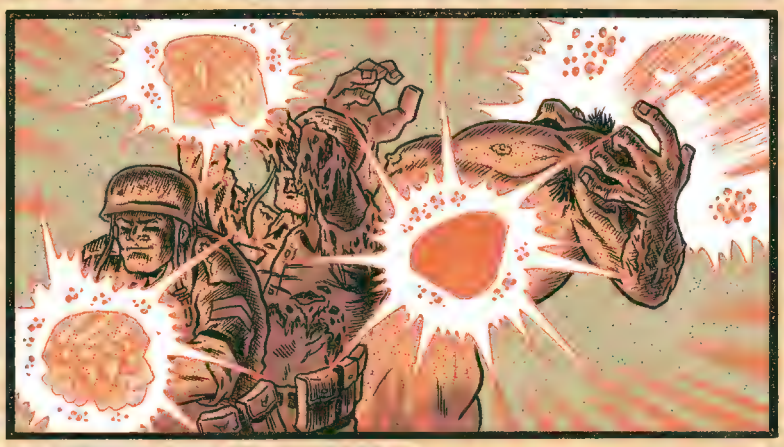

NO IRON? NO OXYGEN.

CHARLES XAVIER KNEW WHEN HIS BOOTS TOUCHED AMERICAN SOIL THAT HE'D IMMEDIATELY BE DRAFTED INTO THE MILITARY FOR A WAR HE HAD NO INTEREST IN. HE HAD THE MONEY AND CONNECTIONS TO EVADE, BUT DIDN'T BOTHER.
X, MAN, THAT SNIPER HAD US DEAD TO RIGHTS. HOW'D YOU KNOW WHERE HE WAS?
JUST A FEELING, SIR...


HE WASN'T EXPECTING TO GET LUMPED INTO THE SAME PLATOON AS HIS STEPBROTHER, CAIN MARKO.
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU HAD IT IN YA...
HA HA... IZZAT HIS BRAINS COMIN' OUTTA HIS EARS?

ON ONE FATEFUL DAY, THE BROTHERS WERE SIMPLY TASKED WITH LOCATING HIDDEN ENEMY WEAPONS CACHES...

THEY ENDED UP IN PERHAPS THE LAST PIECE OF EARTH DEVOID OF EVER HAVING HUMAN CONTACT, THOUGH SOMETHING ELSE HAD SURELY BEEN THERE...
CAIN! LET IT BE!



CAIN!

CAIN MARKO'S BODY WAS NEVER RECOVERED FROM THE HIDDEN TEMPLE OF CYTTORAK...
CHARLES WAS LUCKY, BUT HE DIDN'T WALK AWAY UNSCATHED.

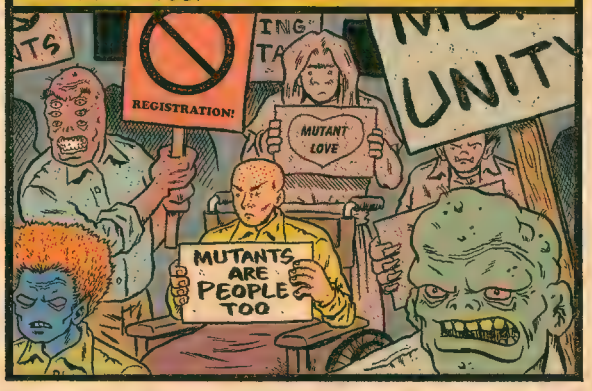
NOW THAT CHARLES IS NO LONGER AN EFFECTIVE MILITARY SPECIMEN, HE BEGINS INVESTING TIME INTO A PROJECT THAT WOULD PROBABLY GET HIM BRANDED A **SEDITIOUS TERRORIST** IF IT WERE EVER DISCOVERED.

"I LOST MY WHOLE FAMILY WHEN I WAS YOUNG BECAUSE OF **NAMOR**. I JUST DON'T WANT ANY MORE TRAGEDY... FOR ANYBODY."

"WHAT IF WE MAKE A **MUTIE** MAD ENOUGH? WHAT IF THE **FANTASTIC FOUR** OR **AVENGERS** ARE BUSY WHEN A **GENE-JOKE** GOES OFF THE RAILS?"

"... MANDATORY DNA TESTING WHEN DOCTORS ACCEPT NEW PATIENTS! SNIFF THEM SNEAKY **MUTANTS** OUT!"

XAVIER HASN'T BEEN **OUTED** AS A **MUTANT**, BUT HE'S **DEFINITELY** BEING WATCHED.

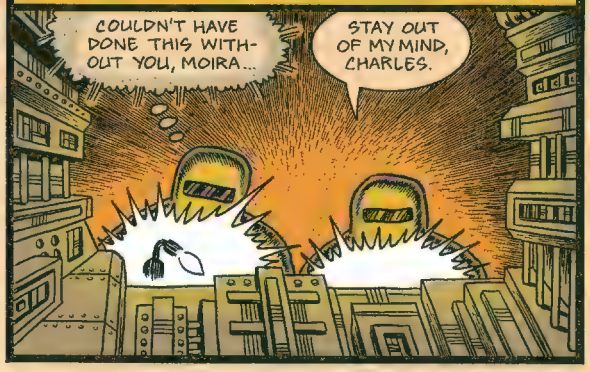


IT WAS AT A **MUTANTS' RIGHTS DEMONSTRATION** THAT HE MET HER...

MOIRA MacTAGGERT, ASPIRING PHD IN THE FIELD OF **MUTANT RESEARCH AND GENETICS**...

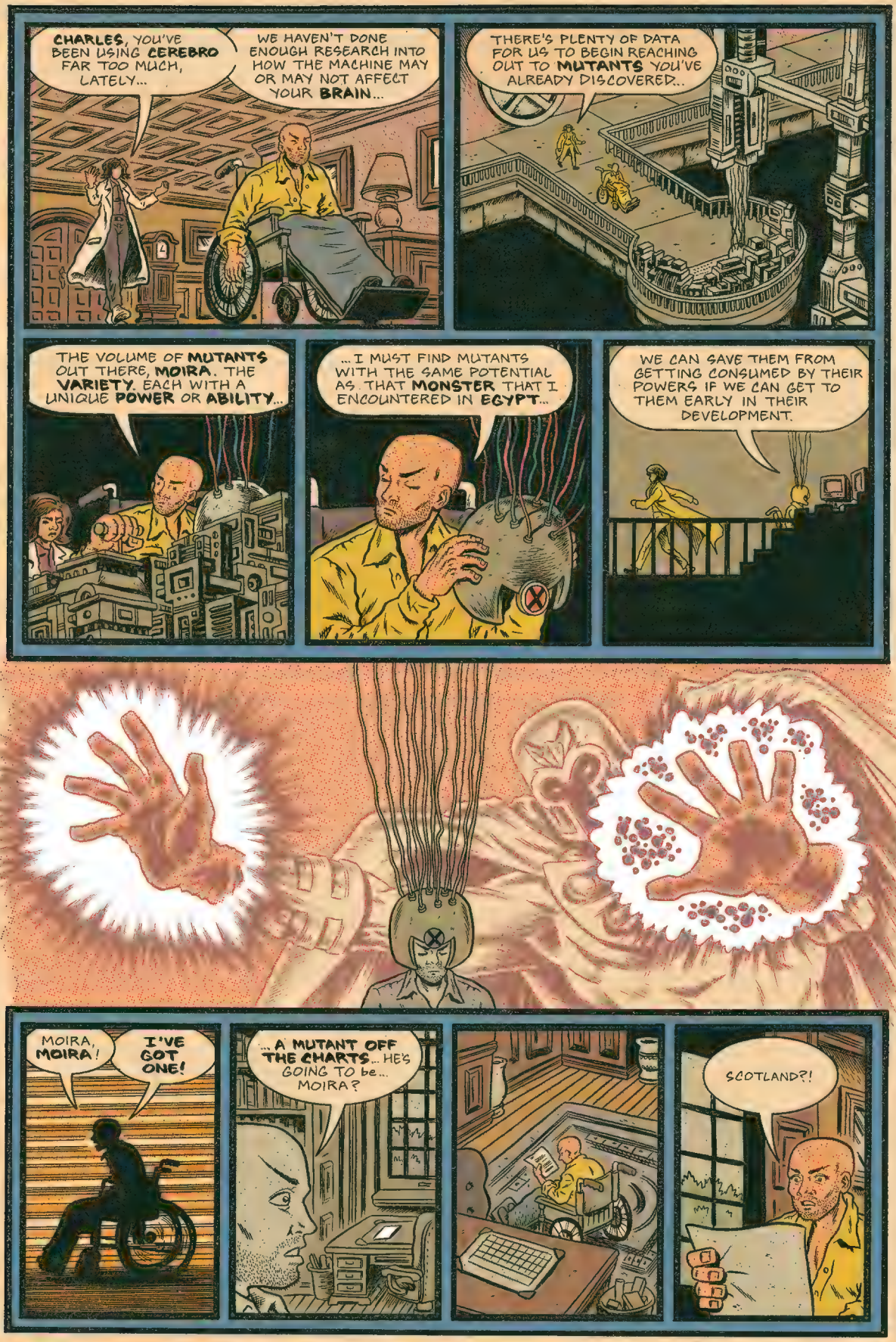
MOIRA'S THESIS CONTAINS RARE INFORMATION ABOUT MUTANT PHYSIOLOGY, WHICH COULD BE THE KEY INGREDIENT FOR **CHARLES'** SECRET DEVICE.

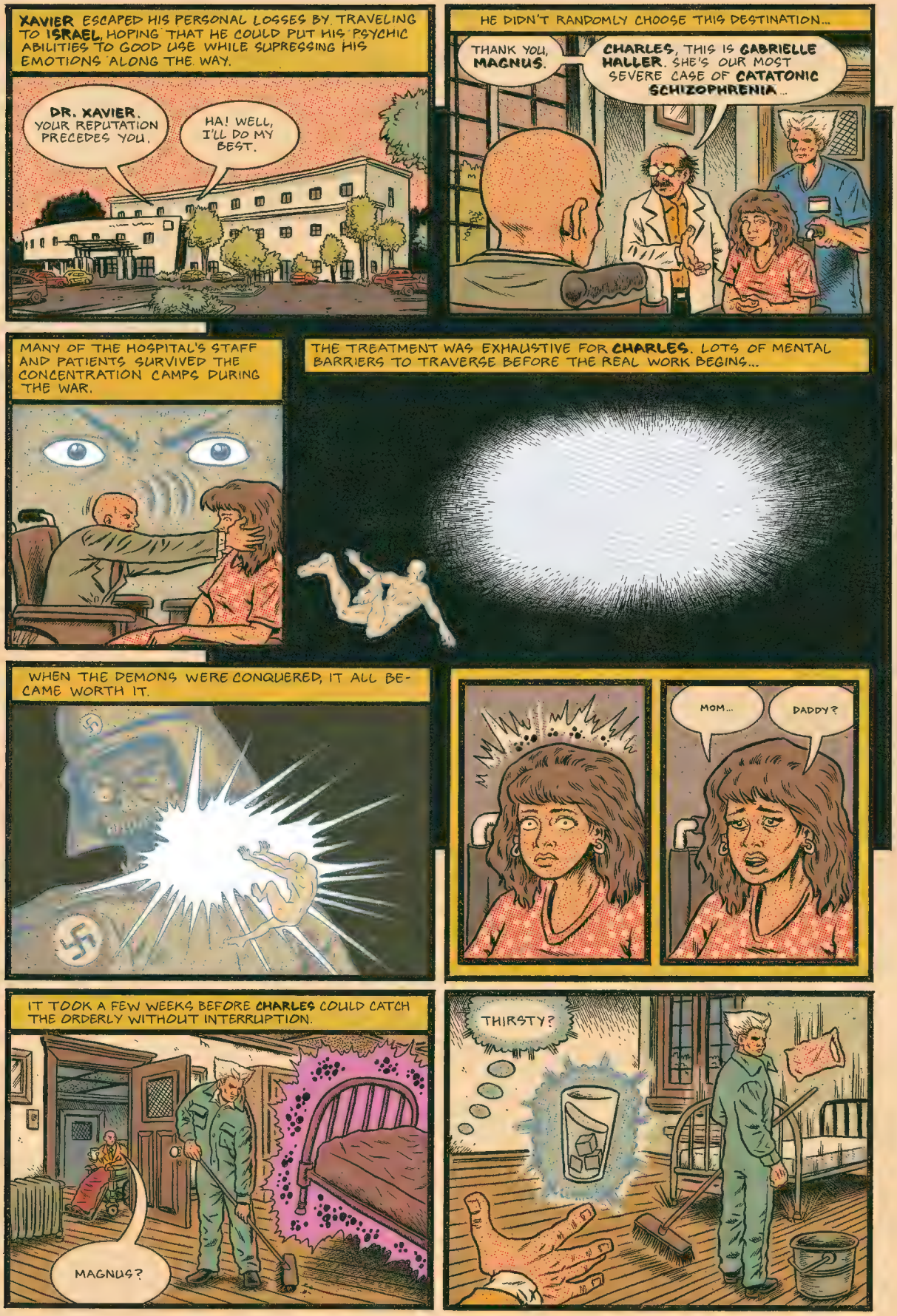
IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS THE COUPLE BECOMES INSEPARABLE, AND **XAVIER'S** PROJECT BECOMES A SHARED SECRET THAT IS NOW READY TO TEST.

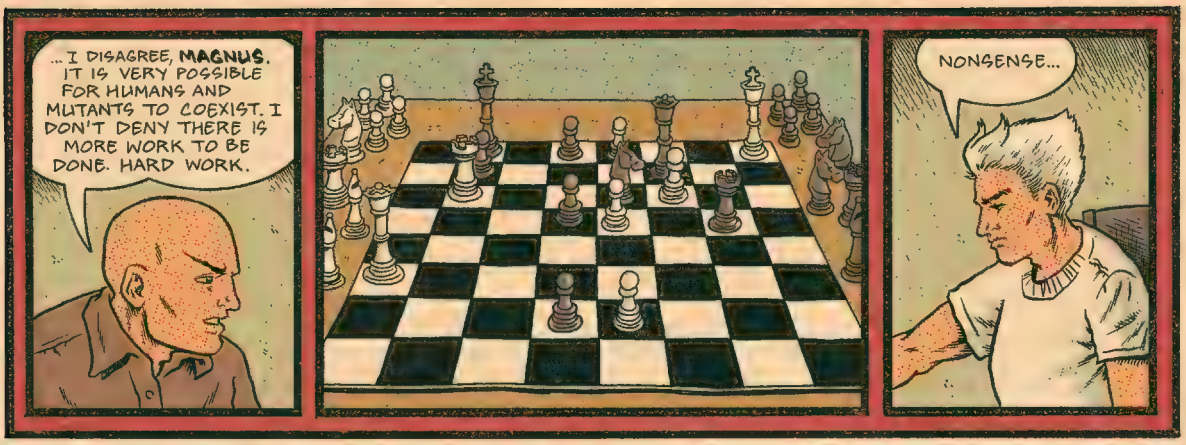


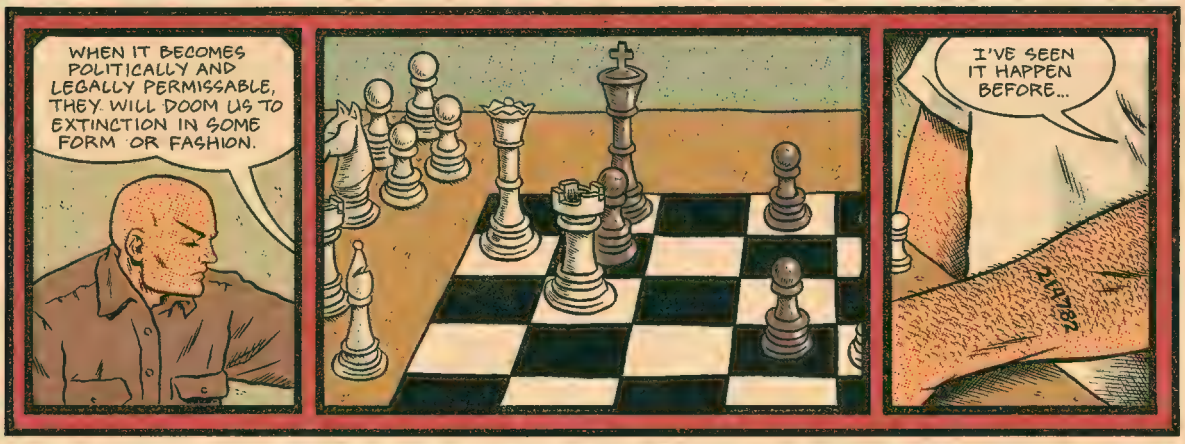
CEREBRO, A COMPUTER BUILT TO AMPLIFY **CHARLES'** MENTAL POWER IN AID OF LOCATING FELLOW **MUTANTS**.

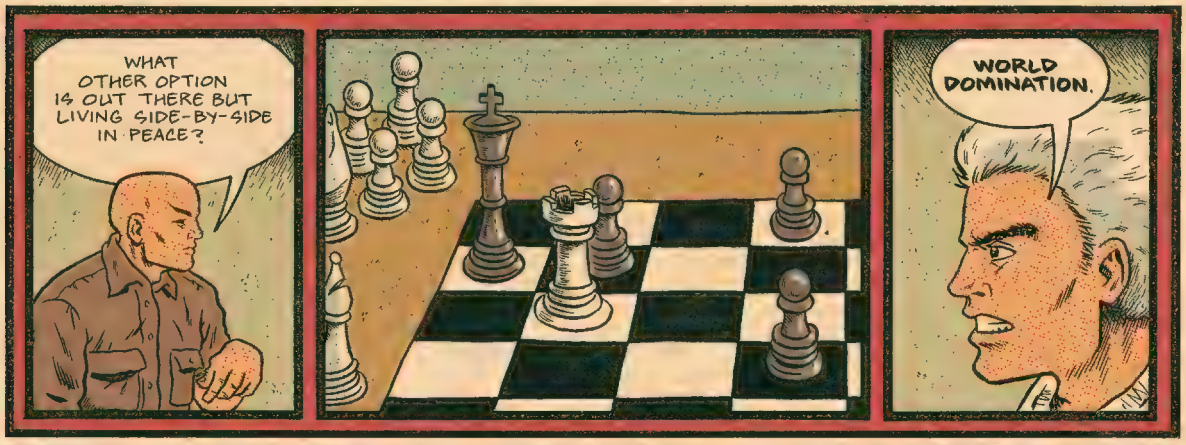
AT THE FLICK OF A SWITCH, **XAVIER** IMMEDIATELY BECOMES LESS LONELY ON THIS TINY GLOBE.

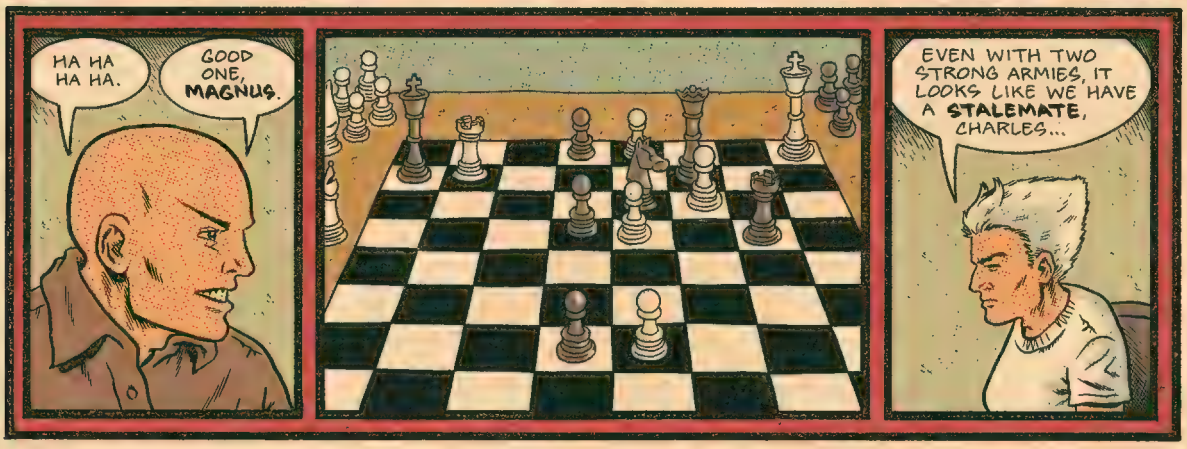

CHARLES, YOU'VE BEEN USING CEREBRO FAR TOO MUCH, LATELY...
WE HAVEN'T DONE ENOUGH RESEARCH INTO HOW THE MACHINE MAY OR MAY NOT AFFECT YOUR BRAIN...
THERE'S PLENTY OF DATA FOR US TO BEGIN REACHING OUT TO MUTANTS YOU'VE ALREADY DISCOVERED...
THE VOLUME OF MUTANTS OUT THERE, MOIRA. THE VARIETY. EACH WITH A UNIQUE POWER OR ABILITY...
...I MUST FIND MUTANTS WITH THE SAME POTENTIAL AS THAT MONSTER THAT I ENCOUNTERED IN EGYPT...
WE CAN SAVE THEM FROM GETTING CONSUMED BY THEIR POWERS IF WE CAN GET TO THEM EARLY IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT.
MOIRA, MOIRA!
I'VE GOT ONE!
...A MUTANT OFF THE CHARTS... HE'S GOING TO be... MOIRA?
SCOTLAND?!

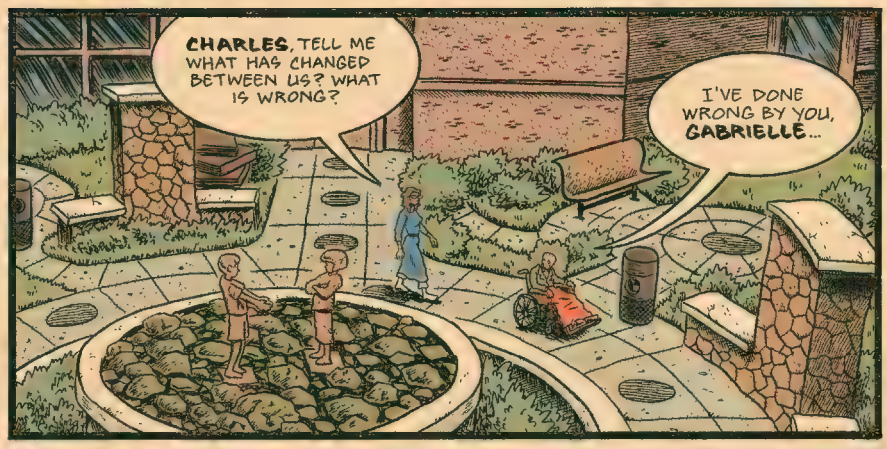

XAVIER ESCAPED HIS PERSONAL LOSSES BY TRAVELING TO ISRAEL, HOPING THAT HE COULD PUT HIS PSYCHIC ABILITIES TO GOOD USE WHILE SUPRESSING HIS EMOTIONS ALONG THE WAY.
DR. XAVIER. YOUR REPUTATION PRECEDES YOU.
HA! WELL, I'LL DO MY BEST.
HE DIDN'T RANDOMLY CHOOSE THIS DESTINATION...
THANK YOU, MAGNUS.
CHARLES, THIS IS GABRIELLE HALLER. SHE'S OUR MOST SEVERE CASE OF CATATONIC SCHIZOPHRENIA...
MANY OF THE HOSPITAL'S STAFF AND PATIENTS SURVIVED THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS DURING THE WAR.
THE TREATMENT WAS EXHAUSTIVE FOR CHARLES. LOTS OF MENTAL BARRIERS TO TRAVERSE BEFORE THE REAL WORK BEGINS...
WHEN THE DEMONS WERE CONQUERED, IT ALL BECAME WORTH IT.
MOM...
DADDY?
IT TOOK A FEW WEEKS BEFORE CHARLES COULD CATCH THE ORDERLY WITHOUT INTERRUPTION.
MAGNUS?
THIRSTY?

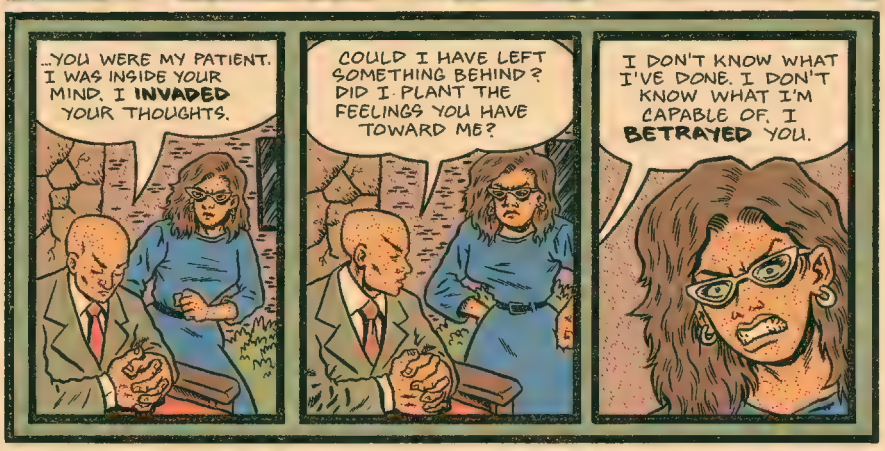

... I DISAGREE, MAGNUS. IT IS VERY POSSIBLE FOR HUMANS AND MUTANTS TO COEXIST. I DON'T DENY THERE IS MORE WORK TO BE DONE. HARD WORK.
NONSENSE...


WHEN IT BECOMES POLITICALLY AND LEGALLY PERMISSABLE, THEY WILL DOOM US TO EXTINCTION IN SOME FORM OR FASHION.
I'VE SEEN IT HAPPEN BEFORE...


WHAT OTHER OPTION IS OUT THERE BUT LIVING SIDE-BY-SIDE IN PEACE?
WORLD DOMINATION.


HA HA HA HA.
GOOD ONE, MAGNUS.
EVEN WITH TWO STRONG ARMIES, IT LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE A STALEMATE, CHARLES...

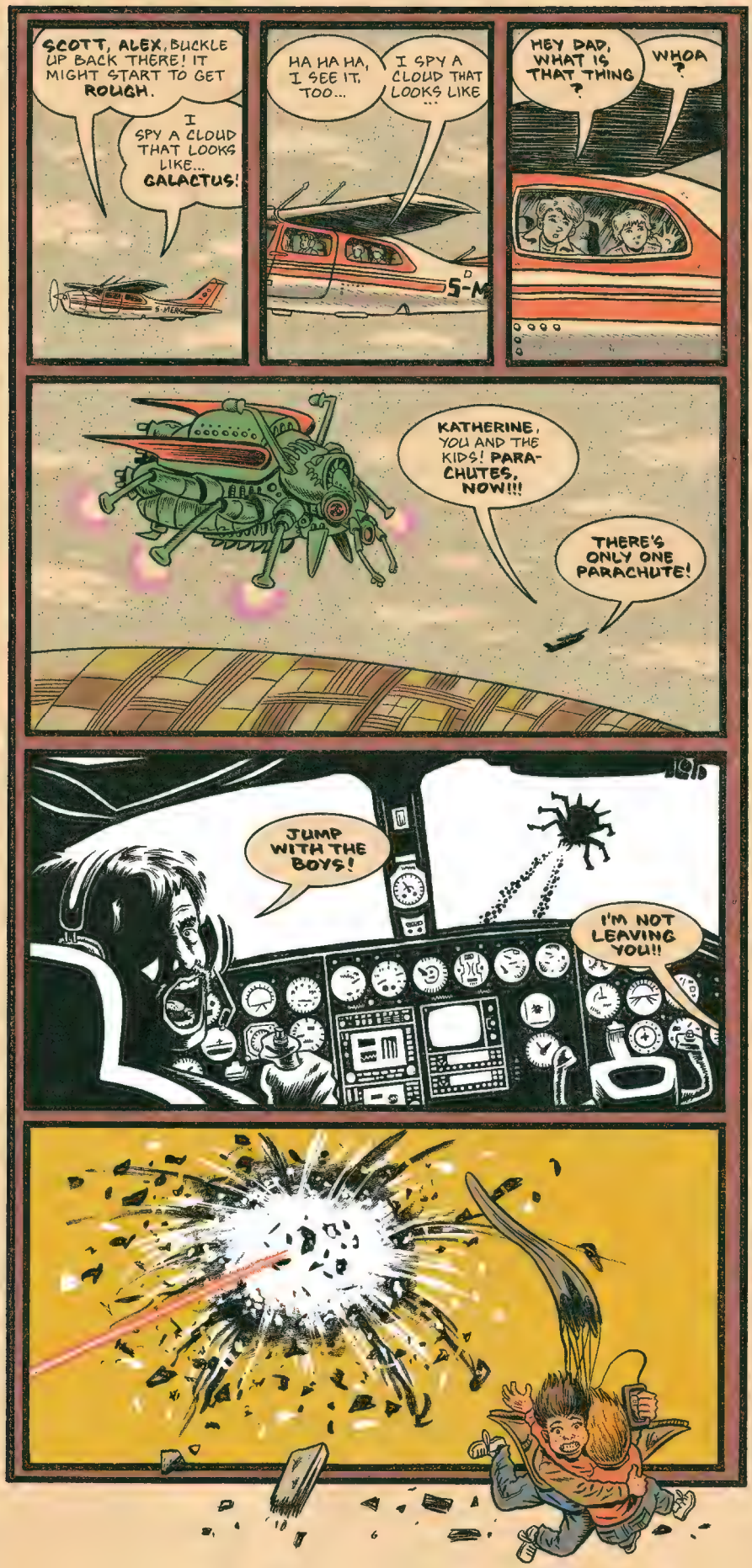




A FEW MONTHS LATER...

MY GOD!!
ANNIE! I THOUGHT I LOST YOU!
GRAN'MA? I HEAR GRAN'MA!!
THE BASKET-BALL WASN'T IMPORTANT, ANNIE.
WEEEE!
WHAT IS THIS PLACE? STAY WITH ME!!
UNCLE SAL IS THERE, TOO!
ANNIE!
IT'S SO PRETTY!
ANNIE!!
AAAAAAAAAAH!!
FOR MAYBE A FRACTION OF A SECOND, YOUNG JEAN GREY WAS ABLE TO DISTRACT HER FRIEND FROM DYING.
MY... GOD!

CHARLES XAVIER WASN'T THE ONLY BEING TO WITNESS THE BURGEONING PSYCHIC VIRTUOSITY OF THE LITTLE REDHEADED GIRL.
THE PHOENIX FORCE, A DEITY OF PURE ENERGY OLDER THAN THE UNIVERSE, WAS SEVERAL LIGHT-YEARS AWAY, SCOURING INFINITY FOR HER NEXT DIVINE, PHYSICAL HOST.
JEAN GREY CAUSED SUCH A BLIP IN THE COSMOS THAT THE PHOENIX COMPLETELY DIVERTED HER COURSE 180 DEGREES.
MANY INTERGALACTIC RACES HAVE SPENT LIFETIMES TRACKING THE PHOENIX FORCE, HOPING TO DOMINATE THE NEXT ENTITY WHO WILL PLAY HOST TO HER IMMEASURABLE GIFT.
THE SHI'AR EMPIRE ARE THE FIRST TO ACCURATELY MAP THE ABRUPT NEW TRAJECTORY OF THE MAJESTIC PHOENIX.
...A SMALL, PRIMITIVE PLANET CALLED EARTH.
SEND A RECONNAISSANCE VESSEL RIGHT AWAY!


SCOTT, ALEX, BUCKLE UP BACK THERE! IT MIGHT START TO GET ROUGH.
I SPY A CLOUD THAT LOOKS LIKE... GALACTUS!
HA HA HA, I SEE IT, TOO...
I SPY A CLOUD THAT LOOKS LIKE ...
HEY DAD, WHAT IS THAT THING ?
WHOA ?
KATHERINE, YOU AND THE KIDS! PARA-CHUTES, NOW!!!
THERE'S ONLY ONE PARACHUTE!
JUMP WITH THE BOYS!
I'M NOT LEAVING YOU!!

THE PILOT, **CHRISTOPHER SUMMERS**, AND HIS WIFE WERE BEAMED ABOARD THE **SHI'AR** VESSEL AT PRECISELY THE MOMENT BEFORE THEIR CESSNA WAS **OBLITERATED**.

MY BOYS!

MONSTERS!

KATHERINE SUMMERS WOULD NEVER ALLOW HERSELF TO BE TAKEN EASILY...

CHRISTOPHER FOUGHT GALLANTLY AT FIRST. HE HAD **NOTHING** TO LOSE.

HE TOOK A FEW OF THEM DOWN BUT ONCE ALL ADRENALINE WORE OFF THE GUILT OF SURVIVING ERODED HIS SPIRIT COMPLETELY.

THE UNFORTUNATE THING ABOUT THE HUMAN INSTINCT FOR SELF-PRESERVATION IS THAT IT STILL EXISTS WHILE ON A PLANET-SIZED **PRISON COLONY**.

MOVE, GRUB!!

YES...

SUMMERS RECALLS WALKING PAST THE BOUND MONSTER LONG ENOUGH TO REMEMBER WHEN THE CREATURE WAS **DOUBLE** ITS CURRENT SIZE.

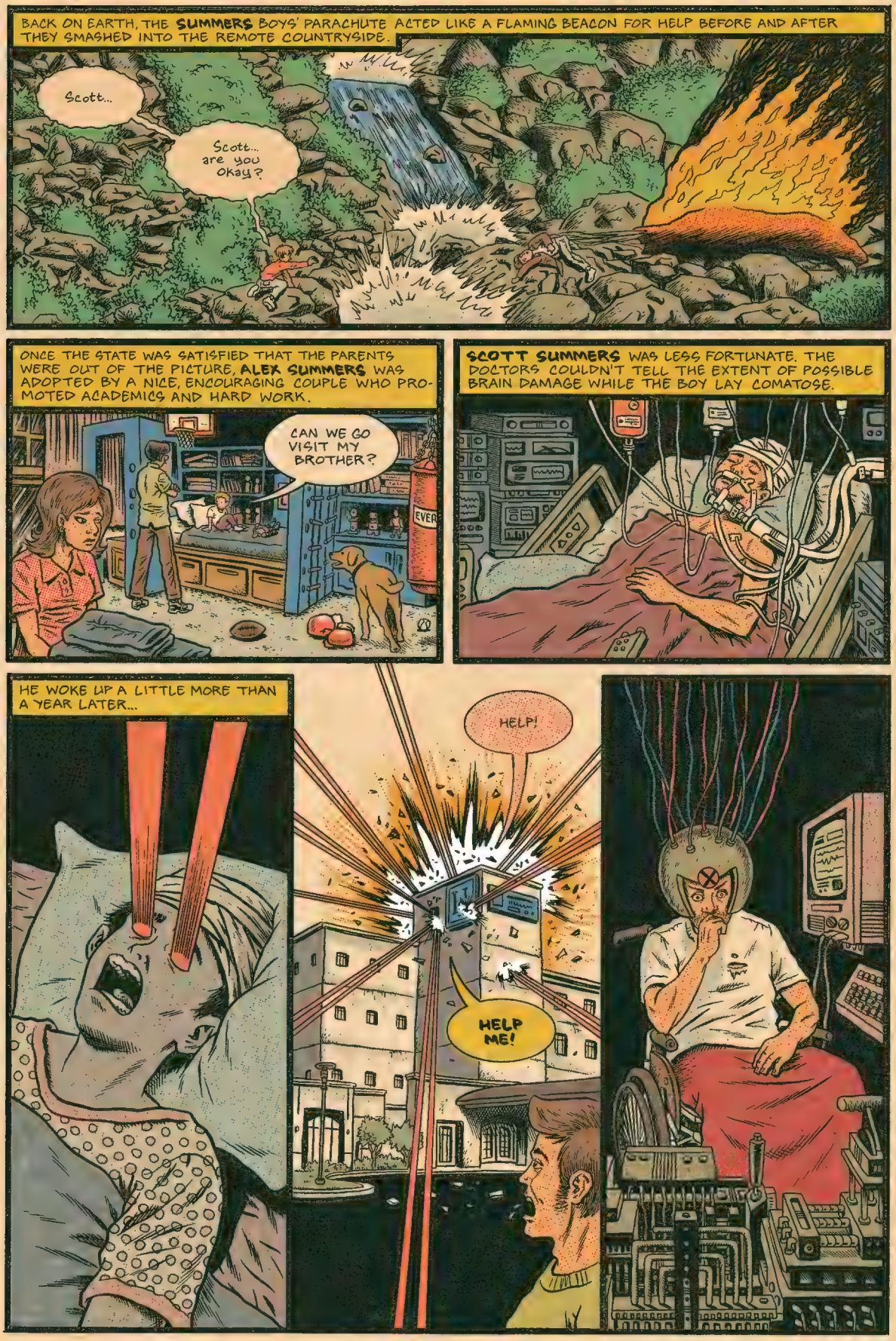
GRUB!

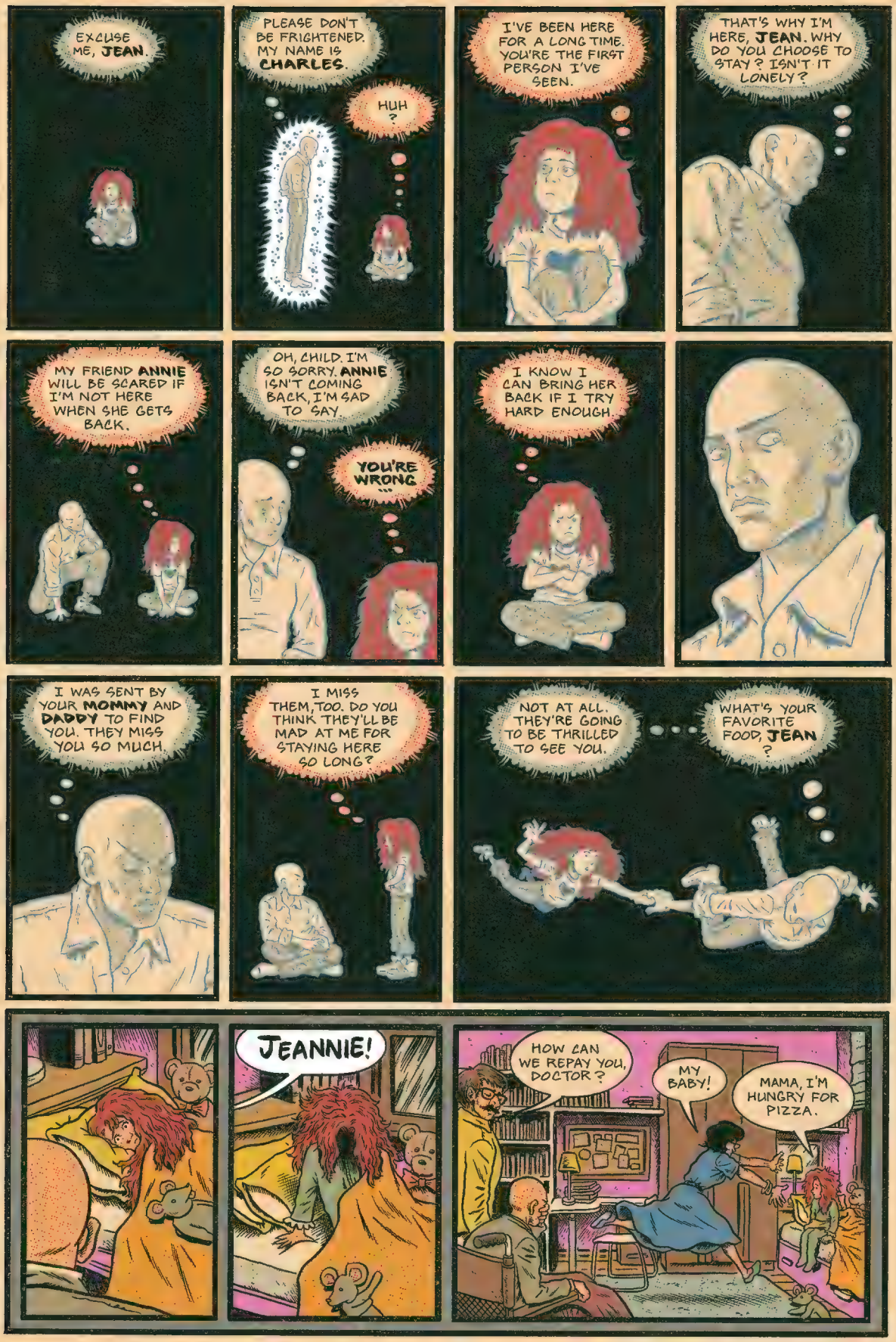
QUIT STARING!

CHRISTOPHER GROWS TIRED OF HEARING THE BEAST WHIMPER.

C'MON, BUDDY. WE'RE GONNA HAVE COMPANY IN A MINUTE!

CH'OD, FRIEND?


BACK ON EARTH, THE SUMMERS BOYS' PARACHUTE ACTED LIKE A FLAMING BEACON FOR HELP BEFORE AND AFTER THEY SMASHED INTO THE REMOTE COUNTRYSIDE.
Scott...
Scott... are you okay?
ONCE THE STATE WAS SATISFIED THAT THE PARENTS WERE OUT OF THE PICTURE, ALEX SUMMERS WAS ADOPTED BY A NICE, ENCOURAGING COUPLE WHO PROMOTED ACADEMICS AND HARD WORK.
CAN WE GO VISIT MY BROTHER?
EVER
SCOTT SUMMERS WAS LESS FORTUNATE. THE DOCTORS COULDN'T TELL THE EXTENT OF POSSIBLE BRAIN DAMAGE WHILE THE BOY LAY COMATOSE.
HE WOKE UP A LITTLE MORE THAN A YEAR LATER...
HELP!
HELP ME!


EXCUSE ME, JEAN.
PLEASE DON'T BE FRIGHTENED. MY NAME IS CHARLES.
HUH ?
I'VE BEEN HERE FOR A LONG TIME. YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON I'VE SEEN.
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE, JEAN. WHY DO YOU CHOOSE TO STAY ? ISN'T IT LONELY ?
MY FRIEND ANNIE WILL BE SCARED IF I'M NOT HERE WHEN SHE GETS BACK.
OH, CHILD. I'M SO SORRY. ANNIE ISN'T COMING BACK, I'M SAD TO SAY.
YOU'RE WRONG ...
I KNOW I CAN BRING HER BACK IF I TRY HARD ENOUGH.
I WAS SENT BY YOUR MOMMY AND DADDY TO FIND YOU. THEY MISS YOU SO MUCH.
I MISS THEM, TOO. DO YOU THINK THEY'LL BE MAD AT ME FOR STAYING HERE SO LONG ?
NOT AT ALL. THEY'RE GOING TO BE THRILLED TO SEE YOU.
WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE FOOD, JEAN ?
JEANNIE!
HOW CAN WE REPAY YOU, DOCTOR ?
MY BABY!
MAMA, I'M HUNGRY FOR PIZZA.

FOR YEARS, **SCOTT SUMMERS** COULDN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM BEFORE HE WAS PULLED OUT OF RUBBLE AT THE HOSPITAL.

I HAVE A NOTE FROM THE DOCTOR TO WEAR THEM.

BUT YOU LOOK LIKE A DAMN GOOFUS, SLIM.

NO ONE SUSPECTED A **MUTANT** WAS BEHIND THE **DESTRUCTION**. THIS INFORMATION WOULD HAVE BEEN THE SPARK TO SET OFF A CIVIL WAR.

HEY!

LET ME TRY 'EM ON. IT'S ONLY FAIR...

TREVOR

NOW **SCOTT** IS THE OLDEST CHILD IN THE ORPHANAGE, NEARLY AGING OUT OF THE SYSTEM. HE DOESN'T RELATE WELL WITH THE YOUNGSTERS AT THE HOME.

I GET BAD HEADACHES WITHOUT MY GLASSES.

EW! YOU NEED 'EM MORE THAN ME, FOR SURE.

BEING AROUND KIDS HIS AGE DOESN'T PROVIDE MUCH COMFORT, EITHER.

QUIT LOOKIN' AT ME THAT WAY...

YER GROSSIN' ME OUT. HERE...

TREVOR

AHHH!

...TAKE YER GLASSES...

WHA?

HUH?

TREVOR!

NO!

RUN!

NO, WAIT!

HELP!

HE'S A MUTIE!

HE'LL KILL US ALL!

~pant~

...IT WASN'T...

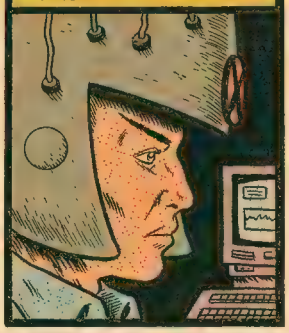
~pant~

...IT WASN'T MY FAULT..

"...THE FOURTH DAY THAT **BRIGHTON HEIGHTS** STUDENT **SCOTT SUMMERS** HAS INEXPLICABLY GONE MISSING. A CLASSMATE, **TREVOR DONOVAN** IS THE LAST KNOWN PERSON TO TALK WITH **SUMMERS**."

"HE JUST SPAZZED OUT, DROPPED HIS BOOKS AND RAN AWAY. KEPT SHOUTING '**I'M SORRY I'M SORRY!**' AND '**IT WASN'T MY FAULT, TREVOR! IT WASN'T MY FAULT!**' WEIRD DUDE, HONESTLY."

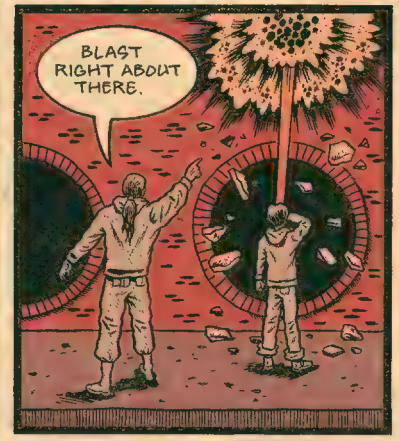
XAVIER COULDN'T BE SURE WHO PLANTED THE HALLUCINATIONS INTO **SUMMERS'** ALREADY FRAGILE MIND.

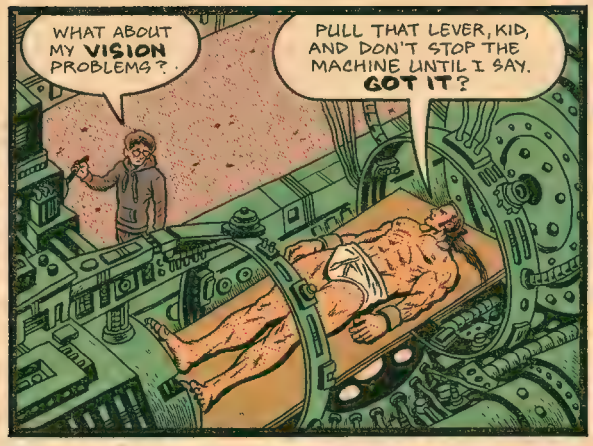


CHARLES WOULD NEED DIRECT ACCESS TO THE BOY TO UNCOVER THIS MYSTERY.

ONE THING IS CERTAIN, **SCOTT SUMMERS'** MUTANT ABILITIES ARE RAPIDLY DEVELOPING, AND IT COULD MEAN **DEVASTATION** IF HE FELL INTO CRIMINAL HANDS.

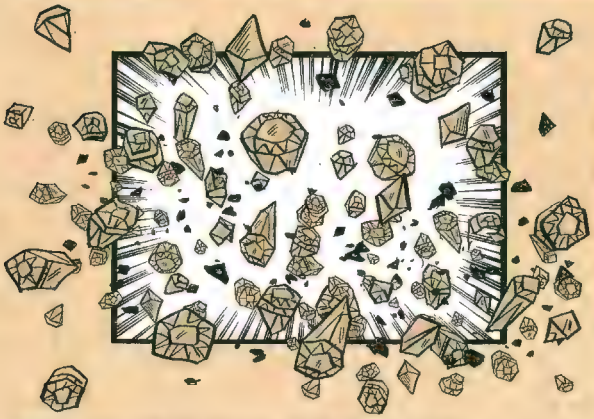
SCOTT WAS LOOKING FOR HELP. FOR GUIDANCE. IT WAS EASY TO EXPLOIT THE CHILD'S INSECURITIES.

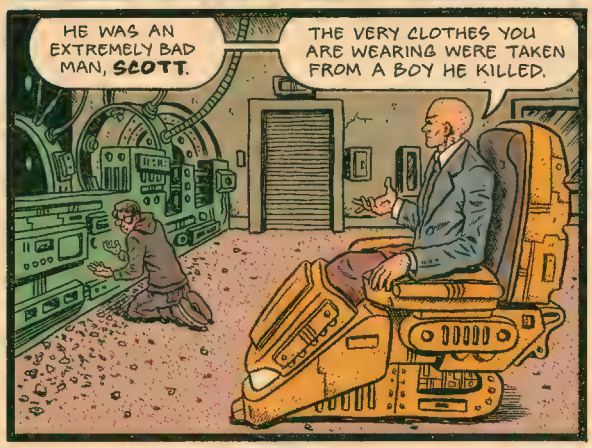


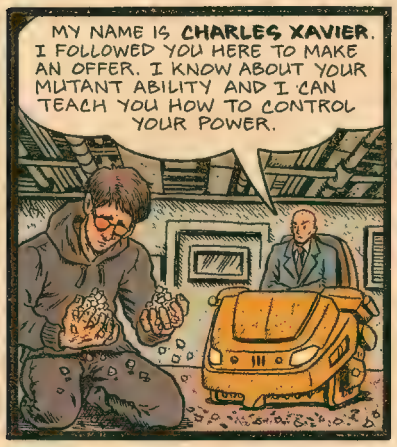

WHAT ABOUT MY **VISION** PROBLEMS?
PULL THAT LEVER, KID, AND DON'T STOP THE MACHINE UNTIL I SAY. **GOT IT**?

WITHIN SECONDS, **JACK O'DIAMONDS** CAN TELL SOMETHING IS INCREDIBLY WRONG.

SOME OUTSIDE FORCE PREVENTS HIM FROM VOCALIZING THE PROBLEM.

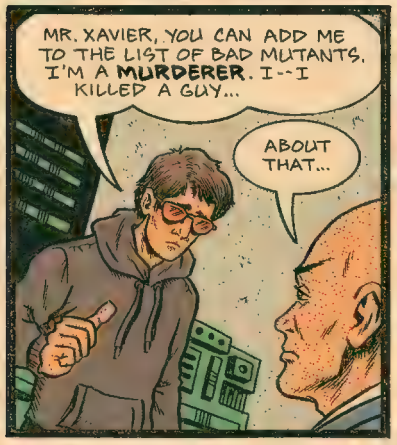


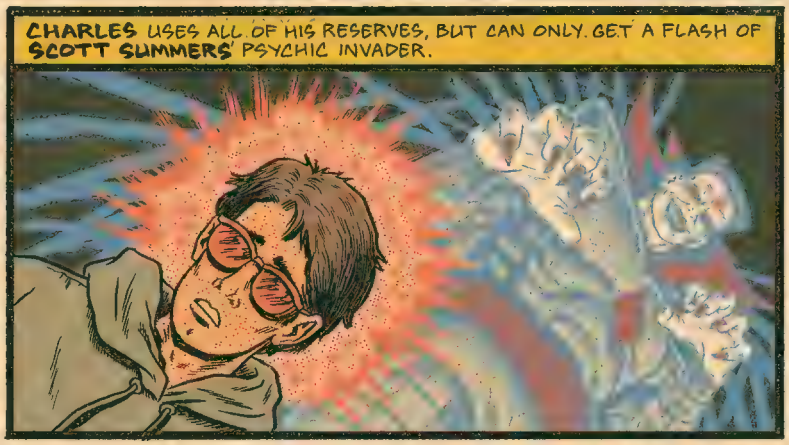

HE WAS AN EXTREMELY BAD MAN, **SCOTT**.
THE VERY CLOTHES YOU ARE WEARING WERE TAKEN FROM A BOY HE KILLED.


MY NAME IS **CHARLES XAVIER**. I FOLLOWED YOU HERE TO MAKE AN OFFER. I KNOW ABOUT YOUR MUTANT ABILITY AND I CAN TEACH YOU HOW TO CONTROL YOUR POWER.

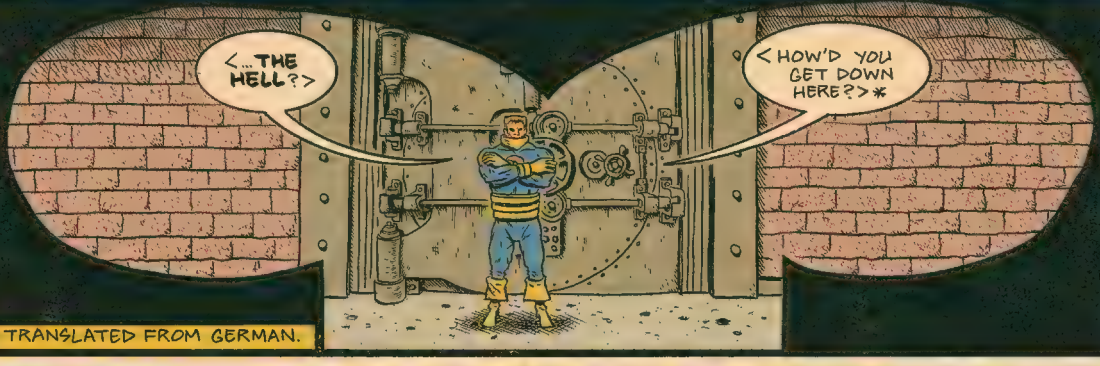
LIKE **JACK**, IT SEEMS THERE ARE MANY MUTANTS IN THIS WORLD USING THEIR GIFTS FOR VERY **DESTRUCTIVE** PURPOSES.

THE TIME MAY COME WHERE WE MIGHT BE THE ONLY ONES WHO COULD STOP THEM.


MR. XAVIER, YOU CAN ADD ME TO THE LIST OF BAD MUTANTS. I'M A **MURDERER**. I--I KILLED A GUY...
ABOUT THAT...

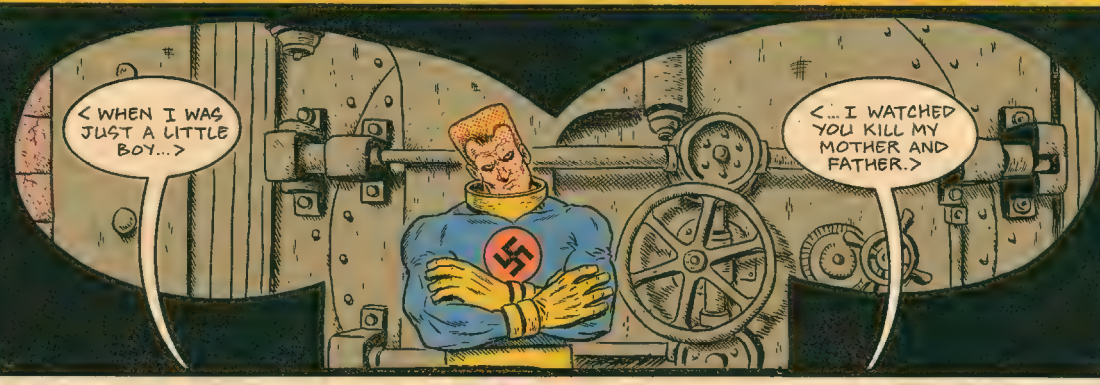

CHARLES USES ALL OF HIS RESERVES, BUT CAN ONLY GET A FLASH OF **SCOTT SUMMERS'** PSYCHIC INVADER.

WHEN **CAPTAIN AMERICA** WAS ORIGINALLY UNLEASHED, THE **NAZIS** WERE UNDER TREMENDOUS PRESSURE TO GENERATE THEIR OWN **SUPER-SOLDIER**. THE RESULT WAS **WILHELM LOHMER**, A.K.A., **MASTER MAN**.

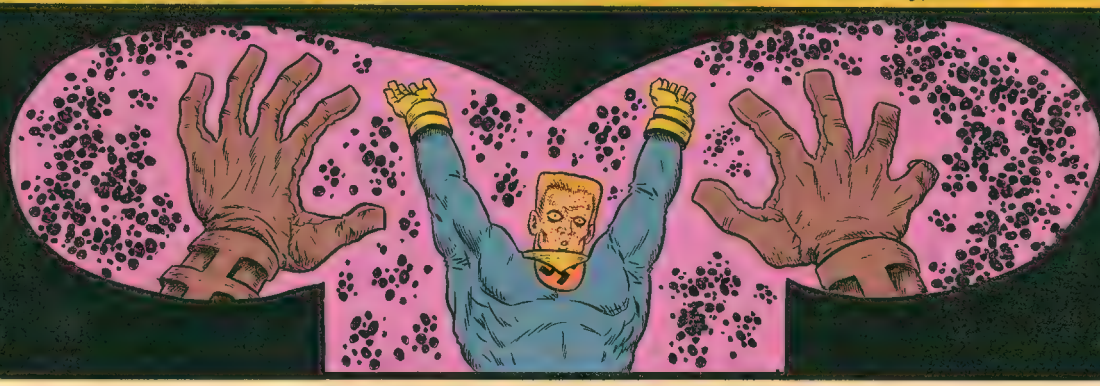


*TRANSLATED FROM GERMAN.

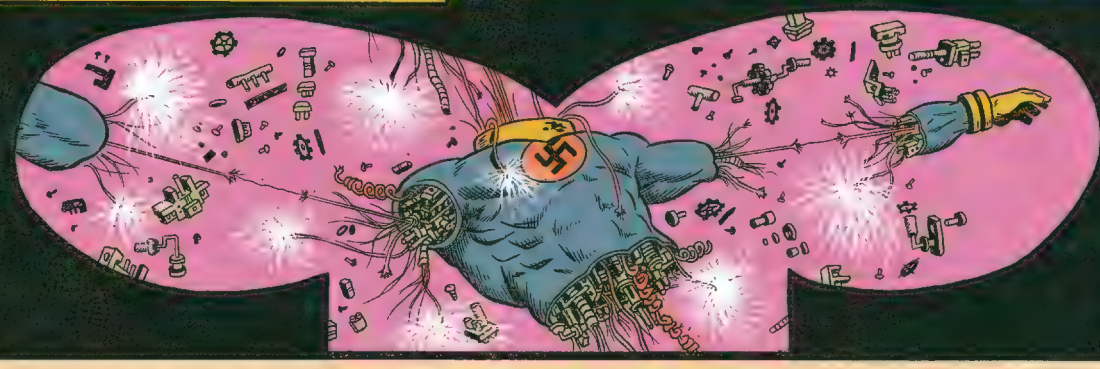
MASTER MAN BECAME A PROUD SYMBOL OF THE **THIRD REICH**, BARRELING THROUGH TOWN AFTER TOWN, DECIMATING MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN TO STAKE TERRITORY FOR THE NAZI **ÜBERMENSCH**.

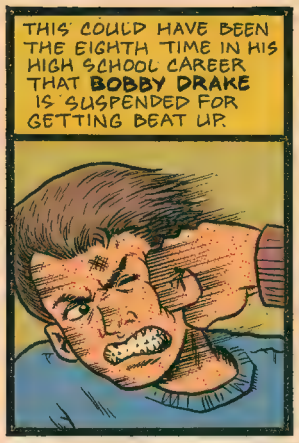


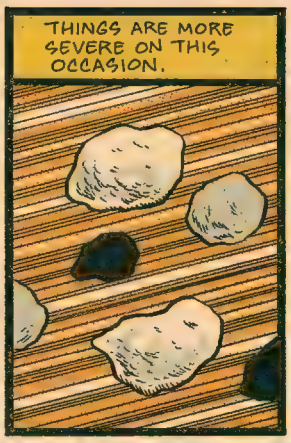
IN THE DECADES FOLLOWING THE WAR, **MASTER MAN** HID IN **ARGENTINA** WITH A WHOLE GANG OF **AXIS WAR CRIMINALS**. HIS JOB WAS TO STAND GUARD OF ALL THEIR STOLEN LOOT AND PLUNDER.

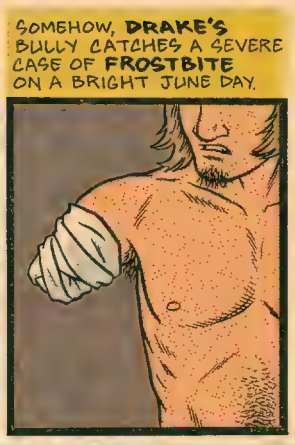


IT WAS A CLOSELY GUARDED SECRET THAT THE SOURCE FOR ALL OF **MASTER MAN'S** POWER CAME FROM BIONICALLY ENGINEERING HALF HIS BODY WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART MACHINERY. RIGHT NOW, THE OTHER 50% IS IN COMPLETE AND TOTAL AGONY.

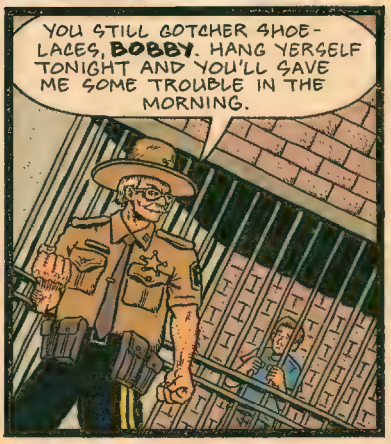


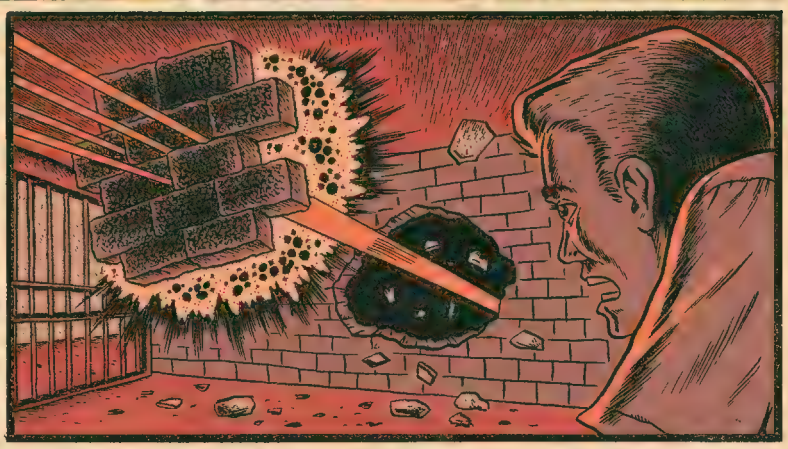

THIS COULD HAVE BEEN THE EIGHTH TIME IN HIS HIGH SCHOOL CAREER THAT **BOBBY DRAKE** IS SUSPENDED FOR GETTING BEAT UP.


THINGS ARE MORE SEVERE ON THIS OCCASION.


SOMEHOW, **DRAKE'S** BULLY CATCHES A SEVERE CASE OF **FROSTBITE** ON A BRIGHT JUNE DAY.

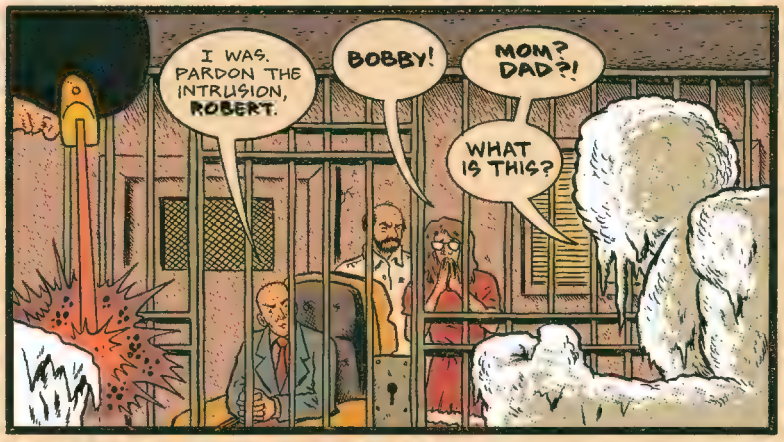
SHERIFF... I DON'T KNOW HOW YOUR SON GOT HURT! I'M BEING HONEST!!
STUFF IT, **BOBBY**.

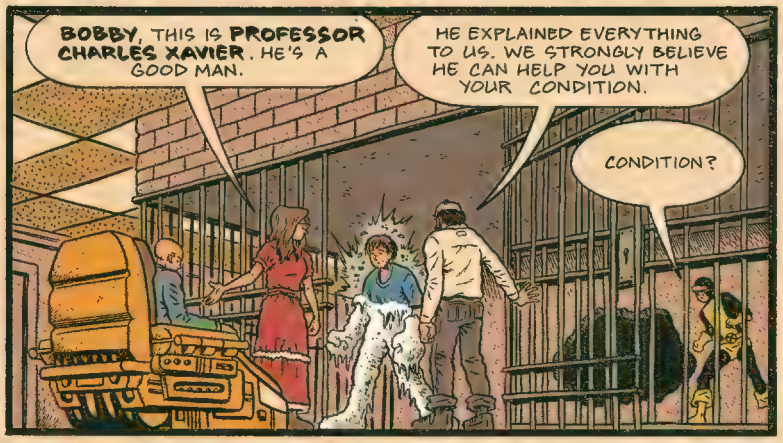

YOU STILL GOTCHER SHOE-LACES, **BOBBY**. HANG YERSELF TONIGHT AND YOU'LL SAVE ME SOME TROUBLE IN THE MORNING.



PROFESSOR! PROFESSOR?!
RELAX, SCOTT.
ROBERT, YOUR POWER IS MAGNIFICENT. WOULD YOU PLEASE STAND DOWN?
HUH?

WE MEAN YOU NO HARM.
WHO'S INSIDE MY HEAD?


I WAS. PARDON THE INTRUSION, ROBERT.
BOBBY!
MOM? DAD?!
WHAT IS THIS?

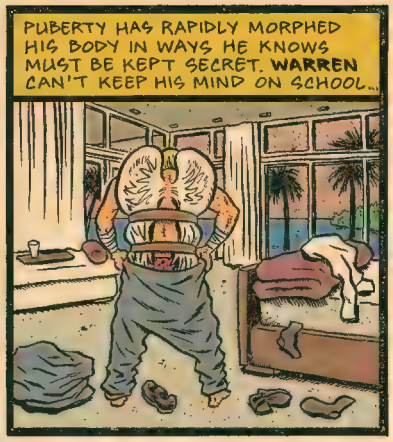

BOBBY, THIS IS PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER. HE'S A GOOD MAN.
HE EXPLAINED EVERYTHING TO US. WE STRONGLY BELIEVE HE CAN HELP YOU WITH YOUR CONDITION.
CONDITION?

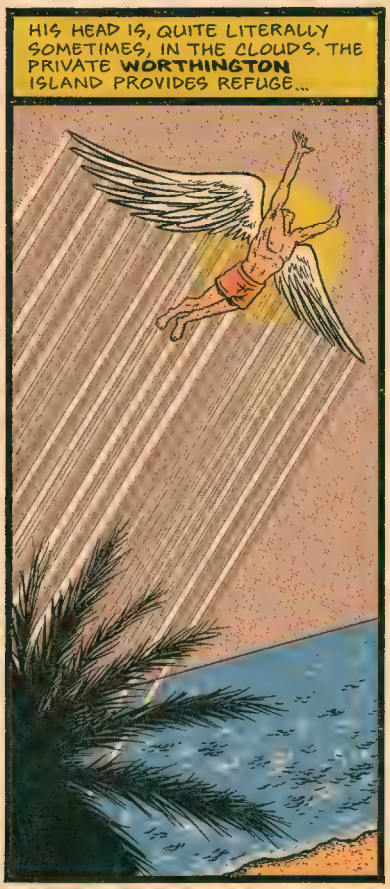
I--I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND.
YOU WILL.

WANDA MAXIMOFF TRIED TO BE CAREFUL, BUT SHE GOT CAUGHT USING HER MUTANT POWERS, AND IN THIS CARPATHIAN VILLAGE, THAT IS A DEATH SENTENCE.
HER BROTHER IS DETERMINED NOT TO ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN.
OH, NO!
I THINK...
...THEY SET...
... A TRAP...
PIETRO! WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
ARE... ARE THEY DEAD?
EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM...

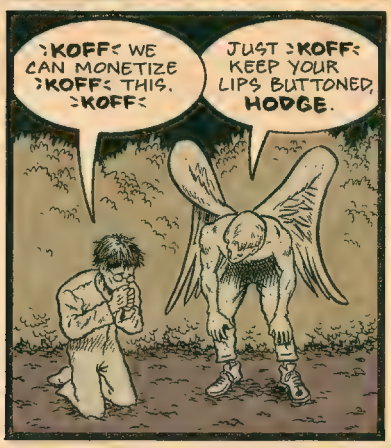
WARREN WORTHINGTON III HAS MORE STRESS AND EXPECTATIONS THRUST UPON HIM THAN MOST TEENAGERS.
YOUR BAGS, MASTER WORTHINGTON ?
THAT'S OKAY.

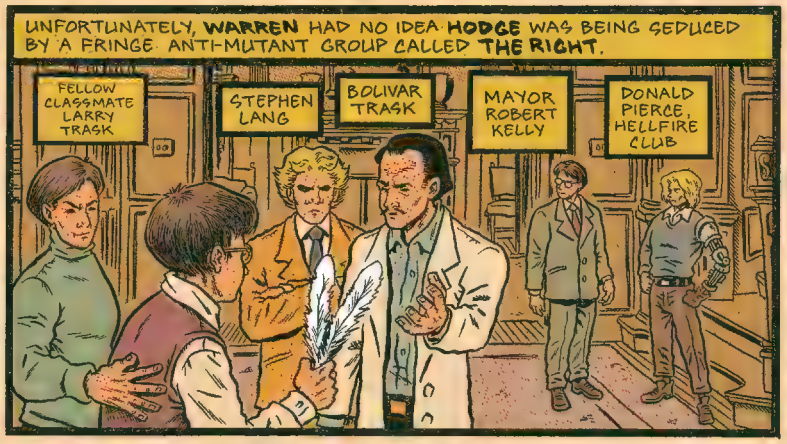
HE'S THE HEIR APPARENT TO A DYNASTIC BUSINESS EMPIRE, AND THE PREMIUM HIS FAMILY PLACES ON EDUCATION IS UNFORGIVING.
PLEASE DON'T LET MY MOTHER KNOW I'M HERE...


PUBERTY HAS RAPIDLY MORPHED HIS BODY IN WAYS HE KNOWS MUST BE KEPT SECRET. WARREN CAN'T KEEP HIS MIND ON SCHOOL...


HIS HEAD IS, QUITE LITERALLY SOMETIMES, IN THE CLOUDS. THE PRIVATE WORTHINGTON ISLAND PROVIDES REFUGE...

AFTER HOLIDAY BREAK, WARREN ARRIVES BACK TO BOARDING SCHOOL VERY LATE ONE NIGHT.
HELP!
THERE WAS ONLY TIME FOR THE WINGED ONE TO REACT. THIS IS THE MOMENT WARREN WORTHINGTON III AND HIS CLASSMATE CAMERON HODGE DEVELOPED A LIFELONG RELATIONSHIP, OF SORTS.
WARREN ?


:KOFF: WE CAN MONETIZE :KOFF: THIS. :KOFF:
JUST :KOFF: KEEP YOUR LIPS BUTTONED, HODGE.


UNFORTUNATELY, WARREN HAD NO IDEA HODGE WAS BEING SEDUCED BY A FRINGE ANTI-MUTANT GROUP CALLED THE RIGHT.
FELLOW CLASSMATE LARRY TRASK
STEPHEN LANG
BOLIVAR TRASK
MAYOR ROBERT KELLY
DONALD PIERCE, HELLFIRE CLUB

THERE WAS A DROUGHT FOR DECADES, BUT NOW THE HUMANS ARE EXPERIENCING A RESURGENCE OF SUPER-POWERED HEROES.

CAMERON HODGE INVESTS IN A PARTNERSHIP WITH **WARREN WORTHINGTON**, WHO JOINS THE BANDWAGON OF MASKED VIGILANTES.

LOOKS GREAT.

I'LL FIGHT THE CRIMES, YOU DO THE P.R.

HODGE ALSO PULLS HIS WEIGHT BY RAIDING HIS FATHER'S R&D FACILITY FOR **WARREN'S** SECRET WEAPON: **KNOCKOUT GAS**.

:KOFF!:

THE PICTURE NEWSPAPER

WHO IS THE AVENGING ANGEL

WARREN'S TREMENDOUS EGO PRE-DISPOSES HIM TO OVERLY ENJOY ALL THE PRAISE AND ADULATION.

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

THEN IT'S DISCOVERED THAT THE KNOCKOUT GAS COMES WITH VERY HAZARDOUS SIDE EFFECTS.

"Would n't wish :**GASP**: this on... :**WHEEZE**: my worst enemy! :**HACK**:"

WARREN'S TREMENDOUS EGO NOW MAKES HIM SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE UNANIMOUS BACKLASH AND RECRIMINATION.

CAMERON...

...I QUIT...

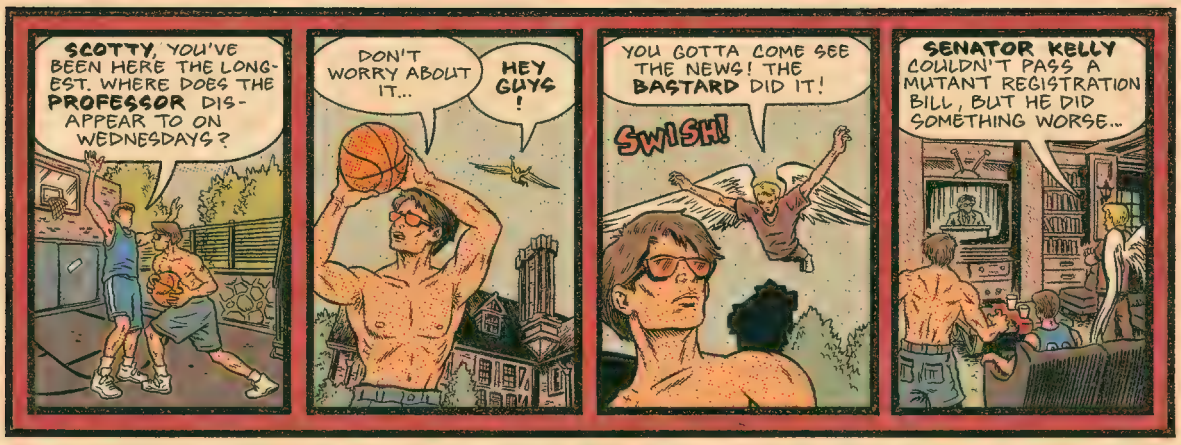
PROFESSOR X KNOWS HE CAN BE MORE CONVINCING TO **WARREN** WHILE HE'S IN THIS VULNERABLE STATE.

?

HELLO, **ANGEL**. WE HAVE TO TALK...

AT **CAMERON HODGE'S** NEXT MEETING WITH **THE RIGHT**...

THE **MUTANT** AND I WON'T HAVE CONTACT LIKE BEFORE. HE'S TRANSFERRING TO SOME NEW SCHOOL OR SOMETHING.

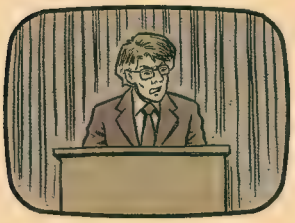


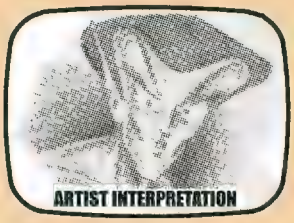
"MY FELLOW AMERICANS, NOT A SOUL IN NEW YORK CITY WAS LEFT UNAFFECTED BY THE LIKES OF NAMOR THE SUB-MARINER..."

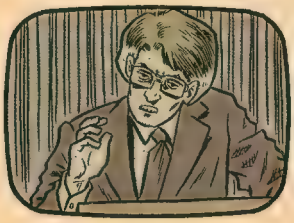
"... A ROGUE MUTANT WITH NO REGARD FOR HUMAN LIFE... NO RESPECT FOR THE VALUES OF THE UNITED STATES..."

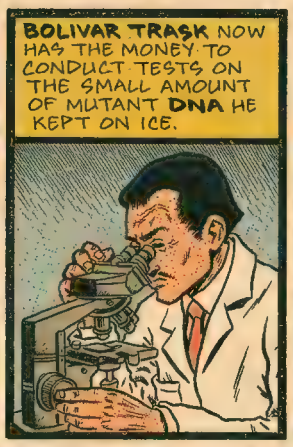
"...WE WERE CAUGHT UNAWARE THOSE FEW DECADES AGO, AND WE'VE DONE LITTLE TO PREPARE FOR ANOTHER SUCH ATTACK..."

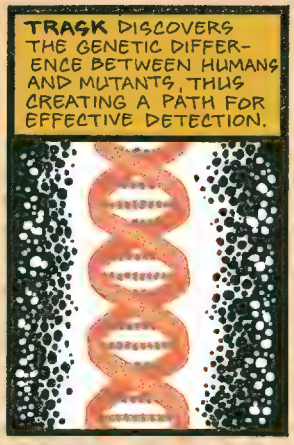
"...THAT IS, UNTIL NOW. HEAVEN FORBID ANY MUTANT TERRORIST THINKING IT CAN UPSET OUR FREEDOM AND WAY OF LIFE EVER AGAIN."

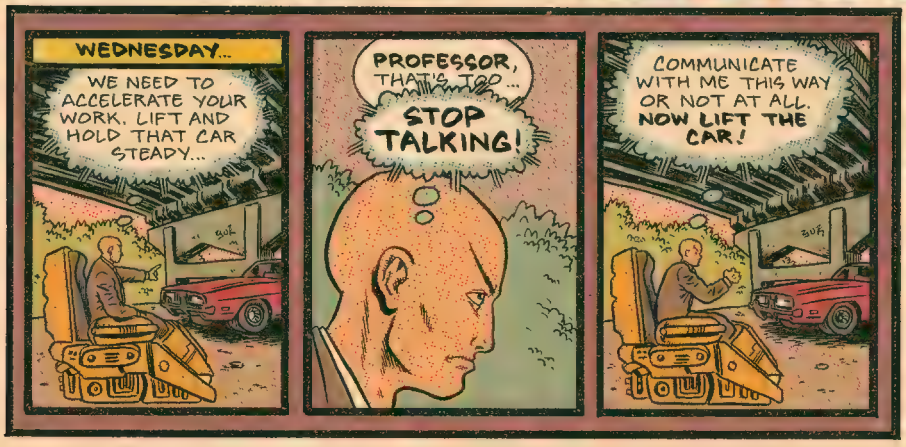




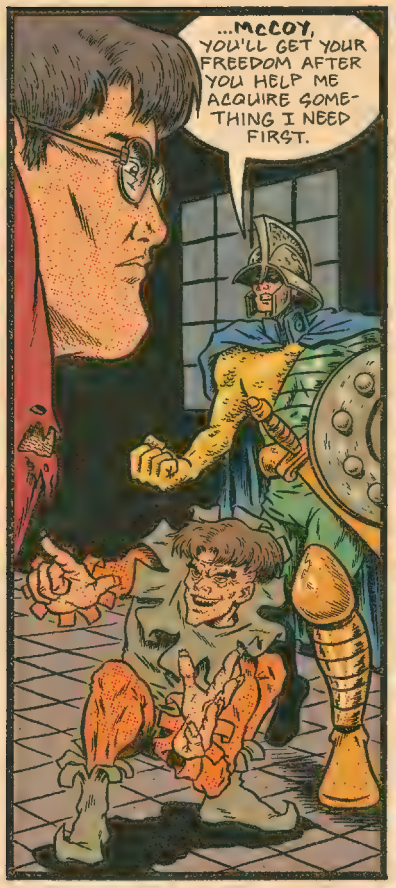




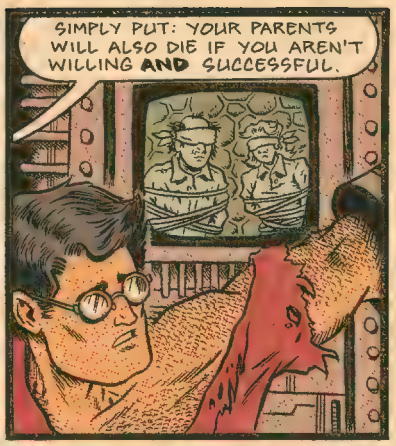


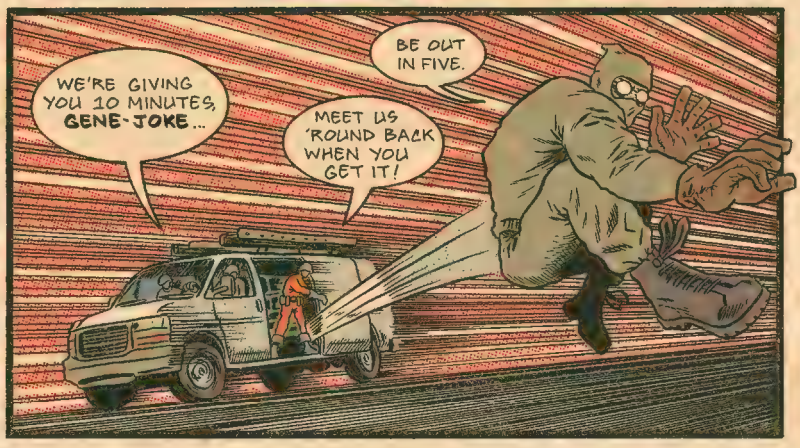


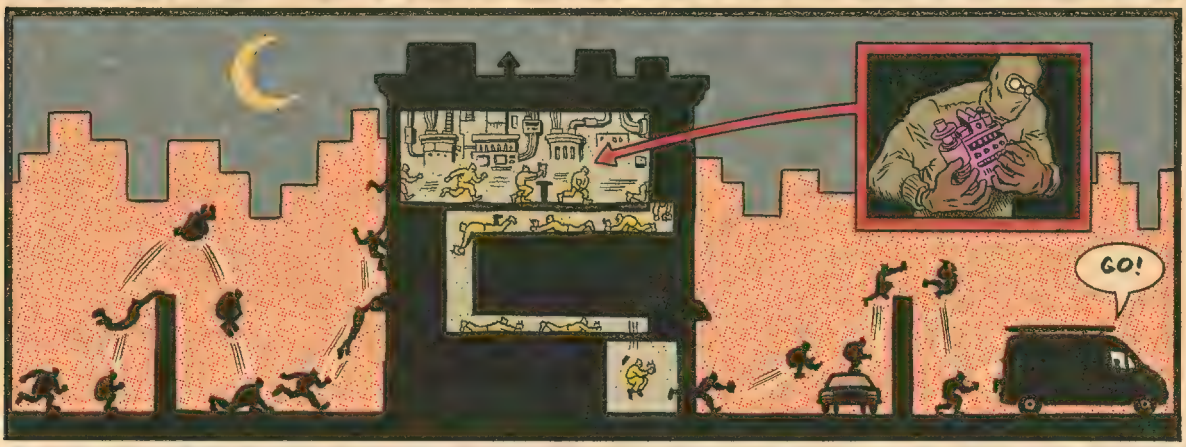
HENRY McCOY'S BIGGEST CONCERN IS CHOOSING WHICH IVY LEAGUE UNIVERSITY WILL MOST COMPLEMENT HIS ACADEMIC PURSUITS.
x= -b ± √b² - 4ac / 2a
HIS ATHLETICISM WILL ENSURE A FULL SCHOLARSHIP WHEREVER HE ENDS UP...
THEY HAVE GUNS!!
HAHA!
SUCKERS!!
?
HANK! STOP!
HENRY'S ACTIONS WERE RECORDED AND BECAME A VIRAL SENSATION ACROSS THE GLOBE.
THEY HAVE RECORDERS ON EARTH?
CHARLES XAVIER WAS ALREADY AWARE OF McCOY BEFORE THE TEENAGER'S GRANDSTANDING.
WHEN XAVIER AND HIS WARDS VISIT THE McCOY HOUSEHOLD TO TALK OF THEIR OWN BRAND OF ACADEMIC RECRUITMENT...
IT'S AS I FEARED...
YOUR UNIFORMS. NOW!


...McCOY, YOU'LL GET YOUR FREEDOM AFTER YOU HELP ME ACQUIRE SOMETHING I NEED FIRST.

WHAT MAKES YOU ENVISAGE I'D SUBSCRIBE TO SUCH A PROPOSAL?


SIMPLY PUT: YOUR PARENTS WILL ALSO DIE IF YOU AREN'T WILLING AND SUCCESSFUL.

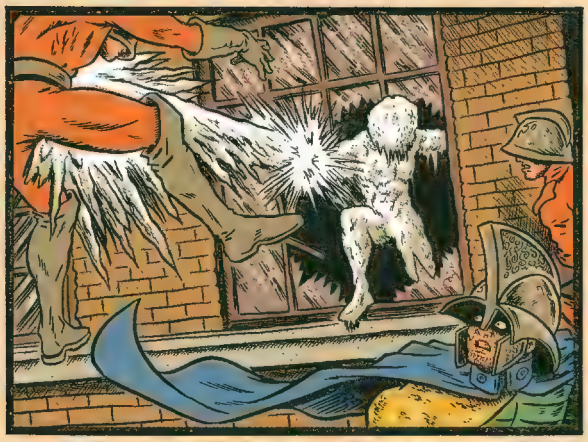

WE'RE GIVING YOU 10 MINUTES, GENE-JOKE...
MEET US 'ROUND BACK WHEN YOU GET IT!
BE OUT IN FIVE.


GO!

ONE STEP CLOSER TO MY VERY OWN ATOMIC BOMB...
THANK YOU, HANK. HA HA.

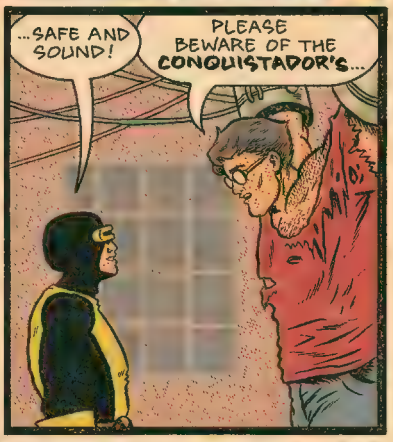
I MUST CONFESS, THOUGH. I'M GONNA HAVE TO KILL YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ANYWAY. NO WITNESSES.

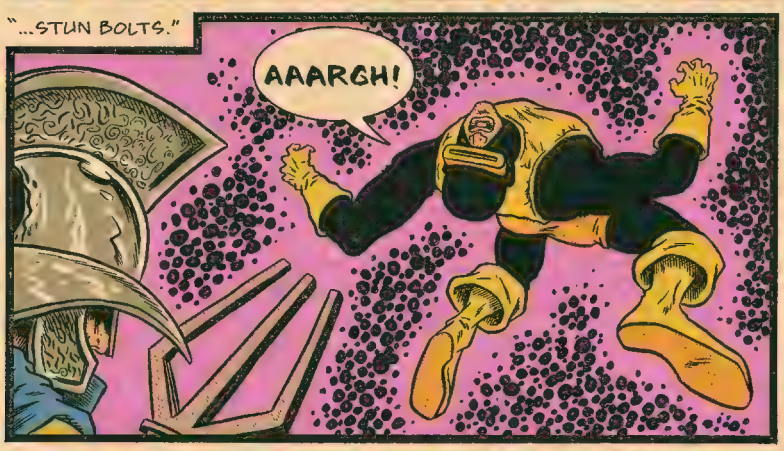
MASTER, MASTER. THE SNOW TASTES TASTY, YES?
SNOW? HUH??



HANK McCOY...

...WE HAVE YOUR FOLKS AT A SECURE LOCATION...


...SAFE AND SOUND!
PLEASE BEWARE OF THE CONQUISTADOR'S...


"...STUN BOLTS."
AAARGH!

SCOTT!

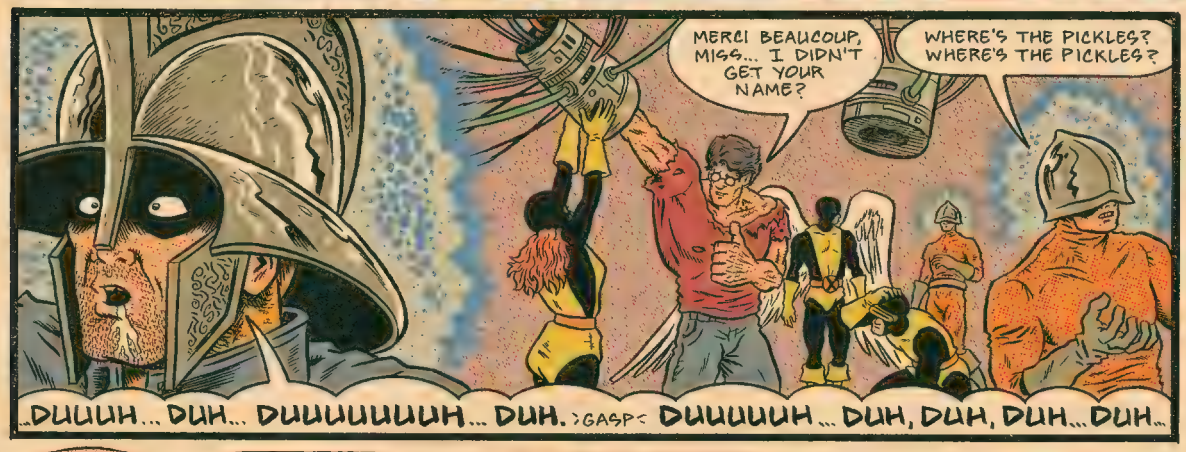
"FAILURE IS THE CONDIMENT THAT GIVES SUCCESS ITS FLAVOR." TRUMAN CAPOTE.

CRUSHING... CAN'T BREATHE...

MOVE AN INCH, ICE-BOY, AN' I SWEAR I'LL MELT YOU.

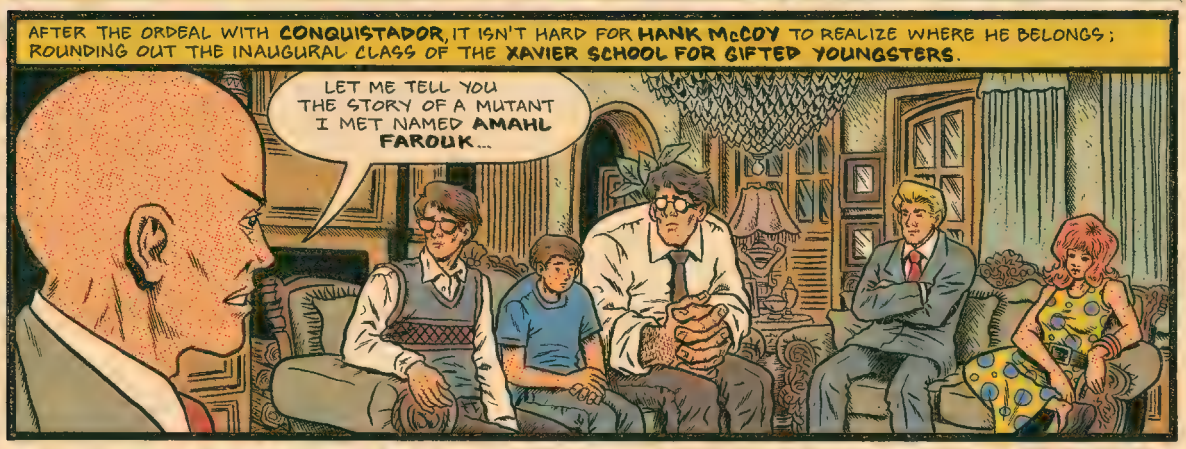
PROFESSOR... WE... NEED... HELP...

SHE SHOULD BE ARRIVING RIGHT ABOUT NOW, SCOTT.
HEY, C'MERE, LITTLE BUMBLE-BEE. I GOT SOMETHIN' REAL SPECIAL JUST FOR YOU.
AKKK... ACK!


MERCI BEAUCOUP, MISS... I DIDN'T GET YOUR NAME?
WHERE'S THE PICKLES? WHERE'S THE PICKLES?
..DUUUH... DUH... DUUUUUUUUH... DUH. >GASP< DUUUUUH... DUH, DUH, DUH... DUH...

MY NAME IS JEAN GREY.
JEAN GREY, WITH VERMILLION TRESSES.
SCOTT, DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS? WHAT'S SHE LOOK LIKE UNDER THAT MASK?
I BET SHE'S READING YOUR MIND RIGHT NOW, WARREN.

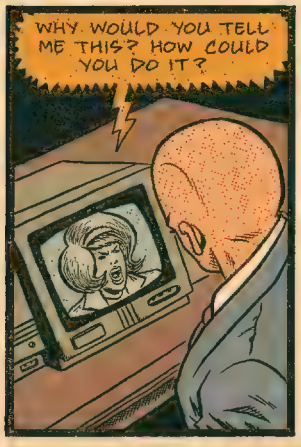
DUH... DUUUH...
MASTER?
LITTLE TOAD?
TELL ME WHO DID THIS TO YOUR MASTER, LITTLE TOAD...

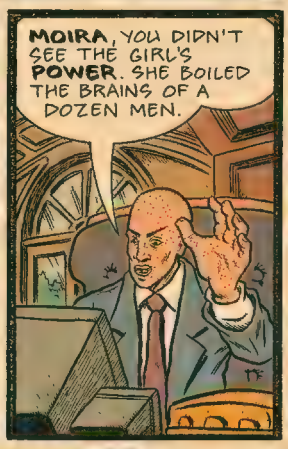

AFTER THE ORDEAL WITH **CONQUISTADOR**, IT ISN'T HARD FOR **HANK McCOY** TO REALIZE WHERE HE BELONGS; ROUNDING OUT THE INAUGURAL CLASS OF THE **XAVIER SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS**.
LET ME TELL YOU THE STORY OF A MUTANT I MET NAMED **AMAHL FAROUK**...

THE YOUNG MUTANTS WILL NEVER FORGET THE HORRIFIC PORTRAIT **PROFESSOR X** PAINTS RECALLING THAT NIGHT IN **CAIRO** WHEN HE MOMENTARILY STEPPED INTO THE MIND OF A MAN PERVERTED BY HIS POWERS.

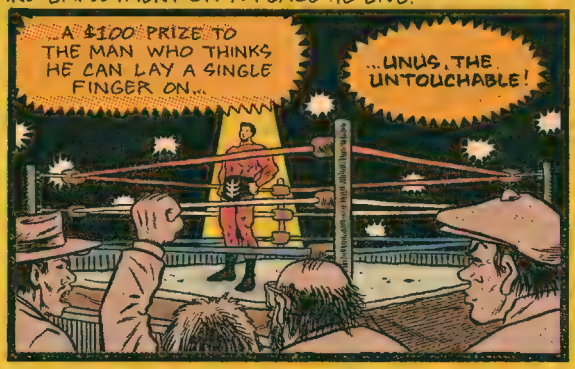
THE HOURS AT THE **XAVIER SCHOOL** ARE STRENUOUS. EIGHT HOURS OF SCHOLARSHIP IN THE CLASSROOM FOLLOWED BY EIGHT HOURS TRAINING EACH DAY IN THE **DANGER ROOM**, AN OBSTACLE-FILLED GYMNASIUM DESIGNED TO REFINE RAW MUTANT ABILITY INTO UNCANNY EXPERTISE.
OKAY, **X-MEN**. ON MY MARK.
YOU HEARD THAT LINE IN A MOVIE OR SOMETHING. DON'T LIE.

THE EARLIEST MISSIONS OF THE **X-MEN** ESTABLISHED THEIR OWN BRAND OF HUMANITARIAN AID.

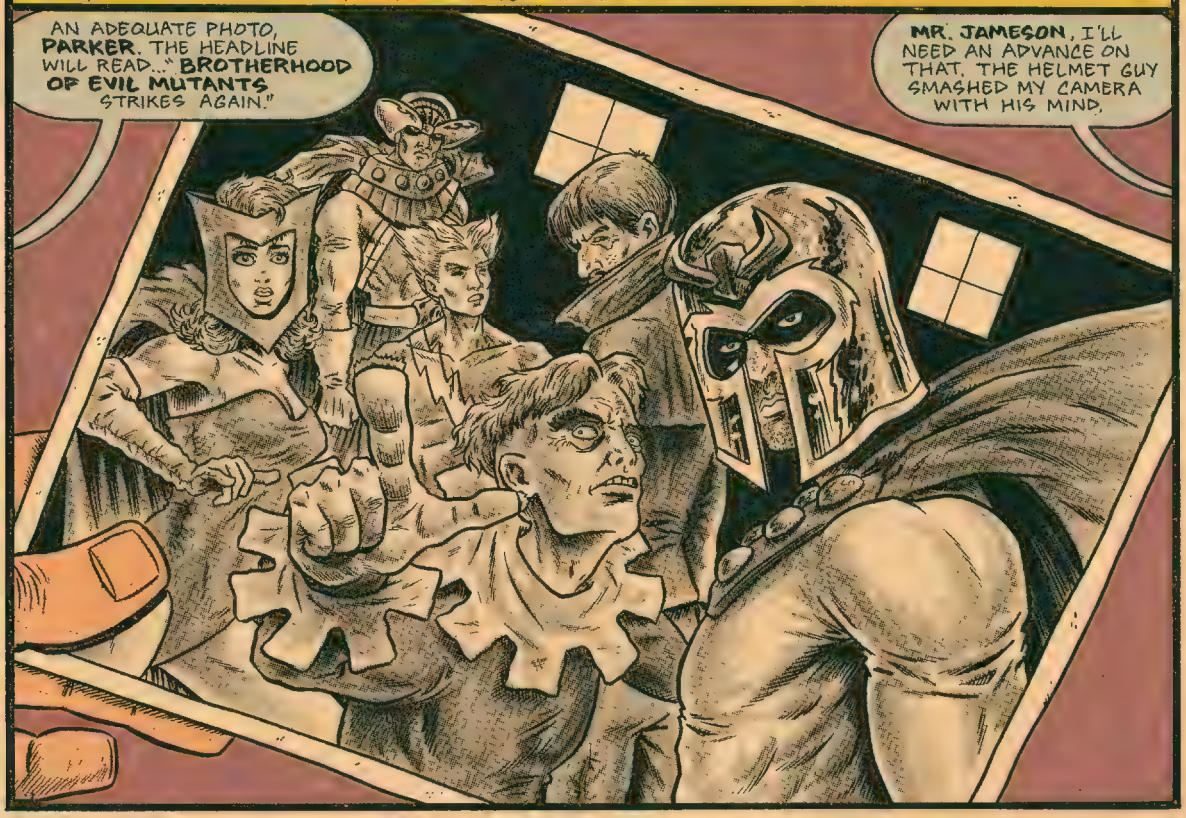




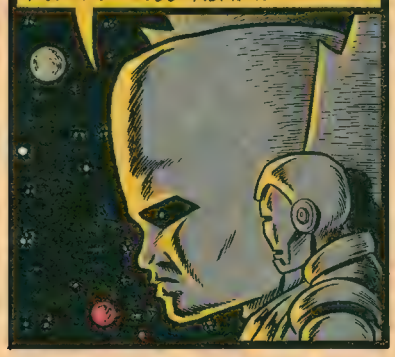
THE **X-MEN** ARE A FORTUNATE LOT. EXPOSED OR PHYSICALLY OBVIOUS MUTANTS FACE ALL DIFFERENT SORTS OF DISCRIMINATION, MAKING IT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND EMPLOYMENT OR A PLACE TO LIVE.



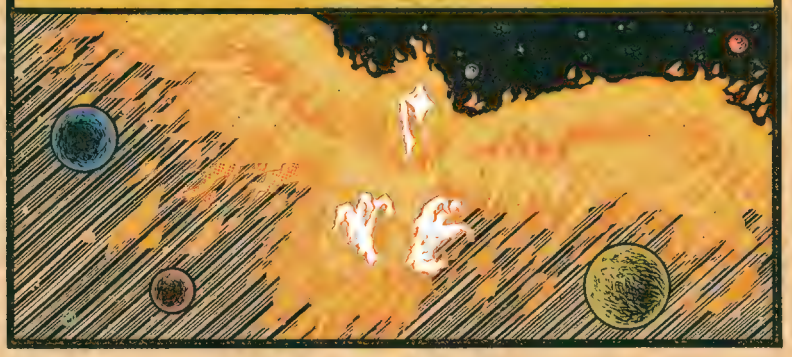
MANY MUTANTS NEED TO USE THEIR GIFTS SURREPTITIOUSLY TO ACQUIRE THE MOST BASIC THINGS NEEDED FOR SURVIVAL. A SUBSET OF THESE MUTANTS USE THEIR ABILITIES TO TAKE WHATEVER THEY WANT, WHENEVER THEY LIKE, WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT.



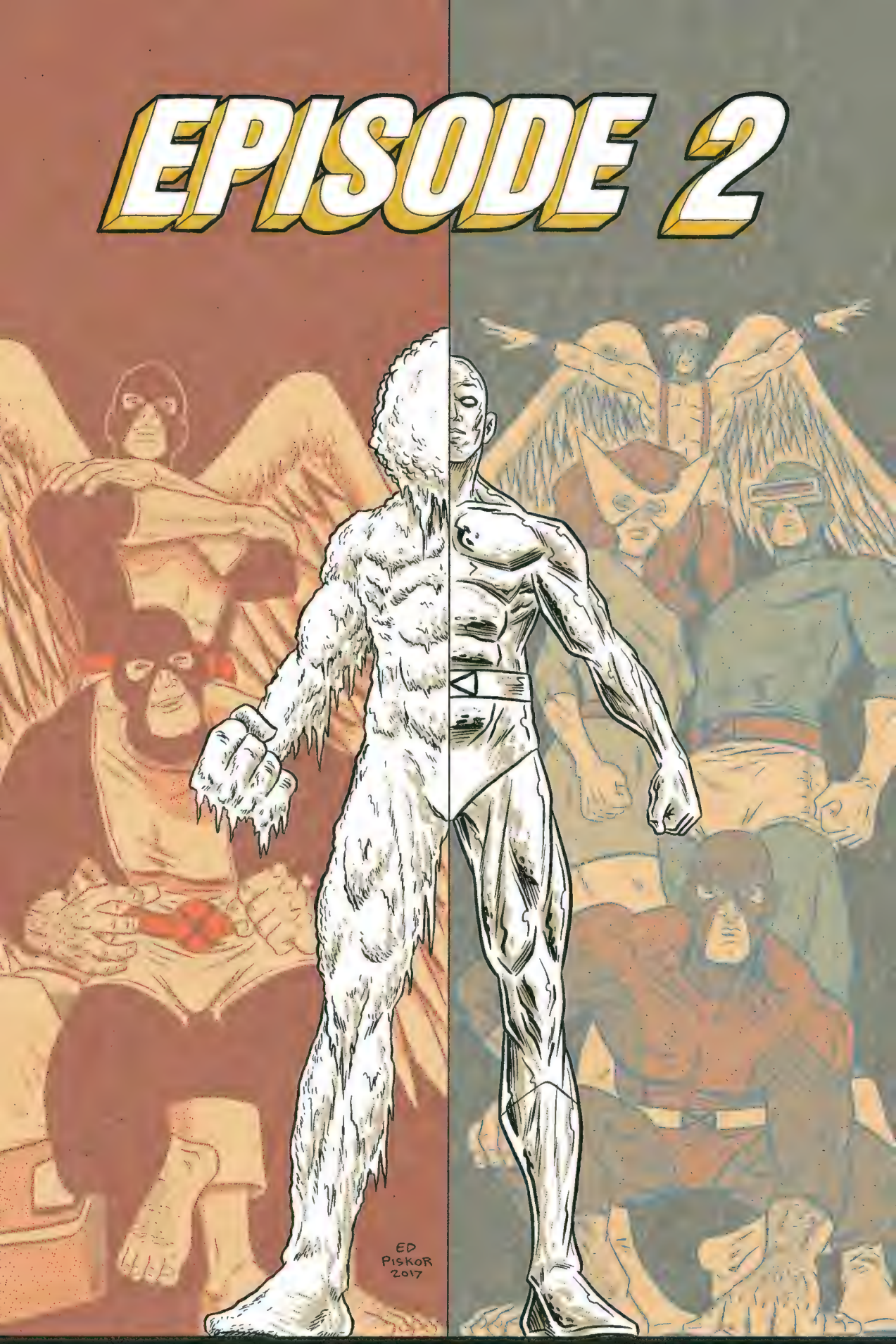
CHARLES XAVIER KNOWS THAT A CLASH IS INEVITABLE, BUT HIS **X-MEN** ARE NOWHERE NEAR BATTLE-READY.



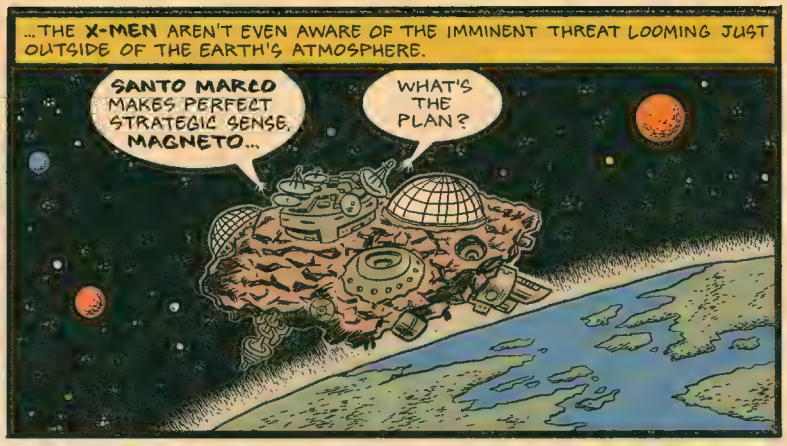
CONCURRENTLY, THE UNQUENCHABLE **PHOENIX FORCE** CONTINUES THROUGH THE GALAXIES, ON HER WAY TO EARTH FOR THE ONE SOUL WORTHY OF HER POWER.



EPISODE 2

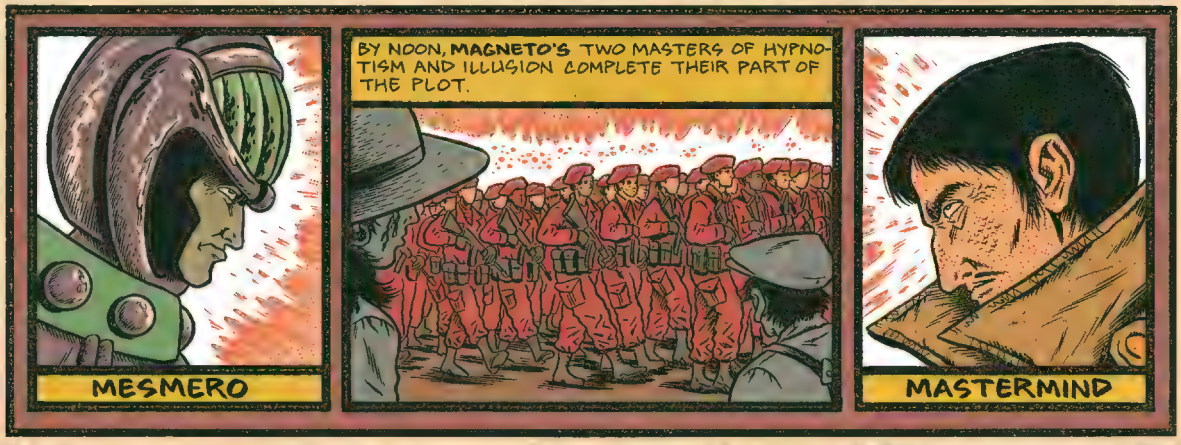


XAVIER AND THE X-MEN HAVE NO SUSPICIONS THAT A MARATHON OF EXTRATERRESTRIAL WARRIORS IS HEADING THEIR WAY...


...THE X-MEN AREN'T EVEN AWARE OF THE IMMINENT THREAT LOOMING JUST OUTSIDE OF THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE.
SANTO MARCO MAKES PERFECT STRATEGIC SENSE, MAGNETO...
WHAT'S THE PLAN?

SANTO MARCO, THE SELF-SUSTAINING ISLAND NATION JUST BARELY 50 MILES FROM THE COAST OF FLORIDA IS THE PERFECT PLACE FOR MAGNETO AND HIS BROTHERHOOD TO LAUNCH THEIR COLD WAR.

THE INHABITANTS OF THE ISLAND WAKE UP TO THE SOUNDS OF TWISTED METAL FORTIFYING THEM OFF FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD.


MESMERO
BY NOON, MAGNETO'S TWO MASTERS OF HYPNOTISM AND ILLUSION COMPLETE THEIR PART OF THE PLOT.
MASTERMIND

BY DINNERTIME, MAGNETO IS KING AND THE REST OF THE WORLD IS NONE THE WISER.
OF COURSE THE MILITARY MIGHT OF THE U.S. IS MOST PROBLEMATIC...

...I'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS.

PERHAPS IN AN ACT OF HUBRIS AFTER CAPTURING **SANTO MARCO** SO EASILY, **MAGNETO** OVER-POWERS **CAPE CITADEL MISSILE BASE** IN **FLORIDA** BY HIMSELF.

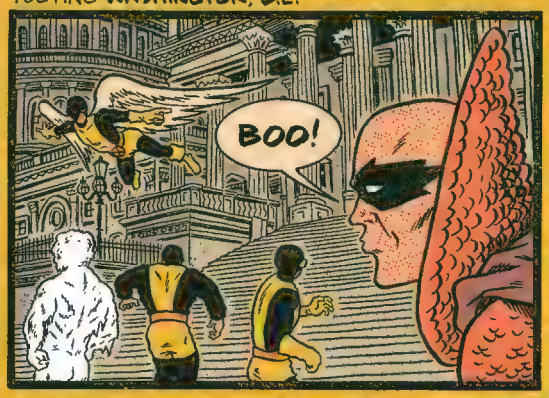
XAVIER RUSHES THE **X-MEN** INTO BATTLE WITHOUT KNOWING EXACTLY WHAT **MAGNETO** IS PLANNING TO ACCOMPLISH.

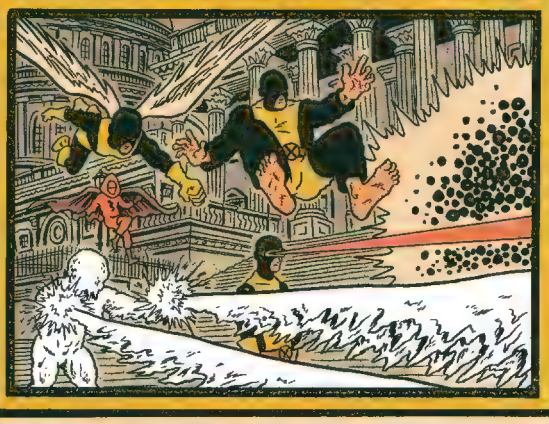
WISELY, THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM DID SAVE A FEW TRADITIONAL MUNITIONS IN CASE HE MET AN OBSTACLE AND NEEDED A DIVERSION.

HE WAS EXPECTING THE **AVENGERS** AND IS VAGUELY INSULTED BY THE RESPONSE OF THIS NO-NAME BAND OF TEENAGERS.

THE **X-MEN** WEREN'T AFFORDED MUCH TIME TO CONTEMPLATE **MAGNETO'S** MOTIVES. DISENFRANCHISED MUTANTS ACROSS THE **U.S.** SWIFTLY BEGIN EXPRESSING THEIR ANGER WITH RECKLESS ABANDON.

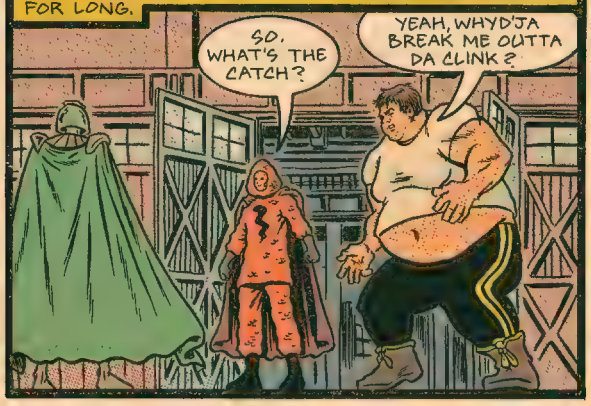
ONE MUTANT'S RAMPAGE WAS SO SUCCESSFUL HE BYPASSED THE MOST POWERFUL DEFENSES PROTECTING **WASHINGTON, D.C.**



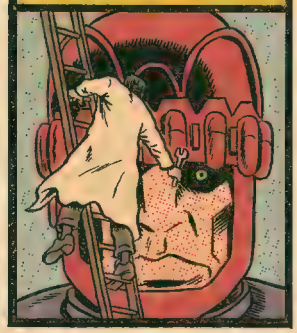


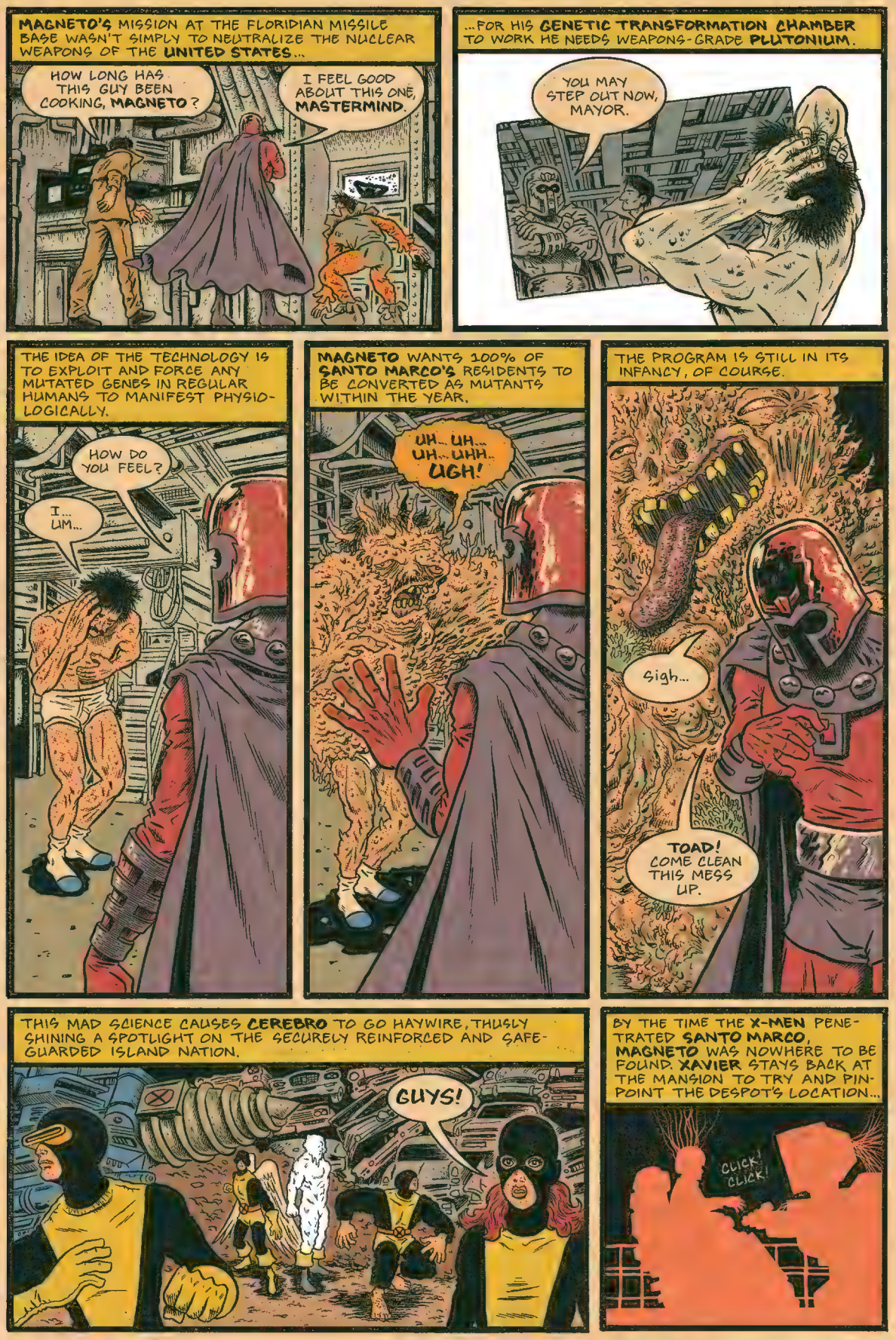
THE BLOB AND **THE VANISHER** WOULD HAVE PULVERIZED THE **X-MEN** IF **CHARLES XAVIER** WEREN'T THERE ON BOTH OCCASIONS TO INTERVENE.

VILLAINS OF THIS CALIBER ARE NEVER INCARCERATED FOR LONG.



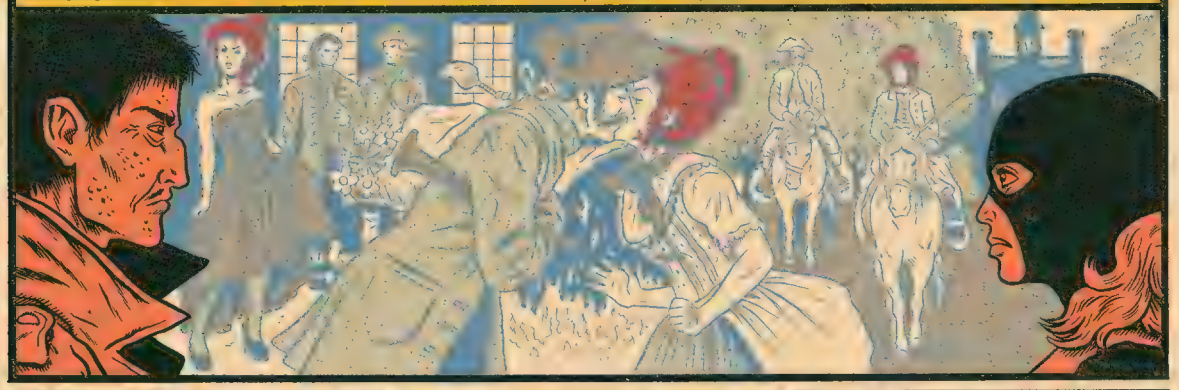
BOLIVAR TRASK'S PLAN COMES CLOSER TO FRUITION EVERY TIME A NEW MUTANT SHOWS AGGRESSION PUBLICLY.




MAGNETO'S MISSION AT THE FLORIDIAN MISSILE BASE WASN'T SIMPLY TO NEUTRALIZE THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS OF THE UNITED STATES...
HOW LONG HAS THIS GUY BEEN COOKING, MAGNETO?
I FEEL GOOD ABOUT THIS ONE, MASTERMIND.
...FOR HIS GENETIC TRANSFORMATION CHAMBER TO WORK HE NEEDS WEAPONS-GRADE PLUTONIUM.
YOU MAY STEP OUT NOW, MAYOR.
THE IDEA OF THE TECHNOLOGY IS TO EXPLOIT AND FORCE ANY MUTATED GENES IN REGULAR HUMANS TO MANIFEST PHYSIOLOGICALLY.
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
I... UM...
MAGNETO WANTS 100% OF SANTO MARCO'S RESIDENTS TO BE CONVERTED AS MUTANTS WITHIN THE YEAR.
UH... UH... UH... UHH... UGH!
THE PROGRAM IS STILL IN ITS INFANCY, OF COURSE.
Sigh...
TOAD! COME CLEAN THIS MESS UP.
THIS MAD SCIENCE CAUSES CEREBRO TO GO HAYWIRE, THUSLY SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON THE SECURELY REINFORCED AND SAFEGUARDED ISLAND NATION.
GUYS!
BY THE TIME THE X-MEN PENETRATED SANTO MARCO, MAGNETO WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND. XAVIER STAYS BACK AT THE MANSION TO TRY AND PINPOINT THE DESPOT'S LOCATION...
CLICK! CLICK!

THE **BROTHERHOOD**, HOWEVER, WAS THERE ON THE SHORES OF **SANTO MARCO** TO GREET THE **X-MEN**.

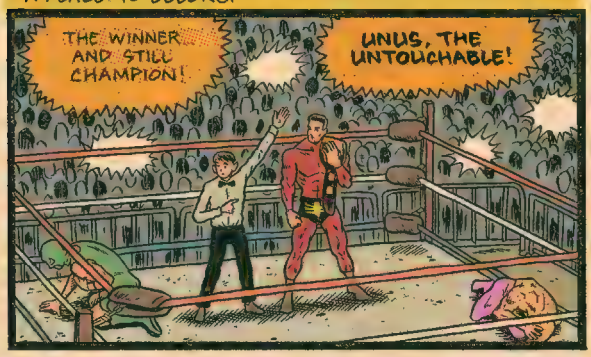
FOR A FRACTION OF ONE SECOND **JEAN GREY** ACCIDENTALLY EXPOSES HER ENTIRE CONSCIOUSNESS TO **MASTERMIND**. IN ONE BURST ALL OF HER DEEPEST, DARKEST DESIRES ARE REVEALED.



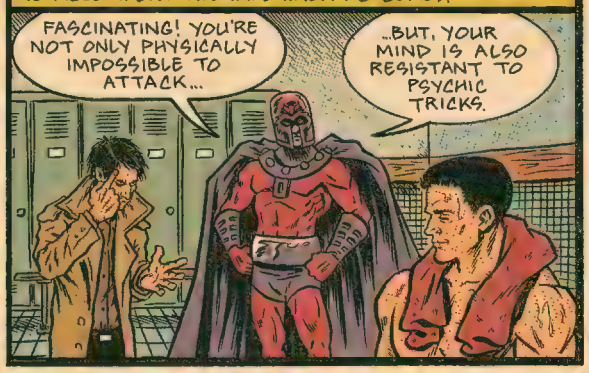
THE **X-MEN** CHALK UP THEIR FIRST OFFICIAL VICTORY.

THIS HOMELESS VAGRANT ALWAYS SHOWS UP WHEN XAVIER USES CEREBRO TO SCAN FOR MUTANTS.
LEMME HOLD TEN DOLLAHS, HOBO!
:HURM:
THE DERELICT SUFFERS FROM SEVERE AMNESIA THAT PREVENTS CHARLES FROM FINDING OUT VERY MUCH.
NO MONEY?
STOP!
A DIP IN THE HUDSON RIVER CHANGES EVERYTHING.
HA HAW!
THE FIRST THING ON PRINCE NAMOR'S REBOOTED MIND IS TO LET HIS KINGDOM KNOW HE'S ALIVE AND WELL.
NO!
NUCLEAR TESTING AND POLLUTION HAS DESTROYED ATLANTIS. MAGNETO KNOWS A THING OR TWO ABOUT SURVIVING GENOCIDE.
JOIN ME IN SWEET REVENGE, NAMOR...
THE SUB-MARINER DOESN'T NEED MAGNETO'S PERMISSION TO RAMPAGE THE AIR-BREATHERS.
NAMOR WAS IGNORANT OF THE NEW BREED OF SUPER HERO SEEKING TO TEMPER HIS CALAMITY.
COL. FURY, WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?
I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT IT'S TIME TO UTILIZE TRASK'S SENTINEL PROGRAM.
COULD HE BE THE ONE PHOENIX IS SEARCHING FOR?
NOT POSSIBLE. THE PHOENIX FORCE WOULD NEVER BOND WITH AN AQUATIC CREATURE.

IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT **MAGNETO'S** UNSUCCESSFUL IN TAMING **NAMOR** FOR HIS CAUSE, BUT THERE ARE MANY IMPRESSIONABLE MUTANTS LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO BELONG.

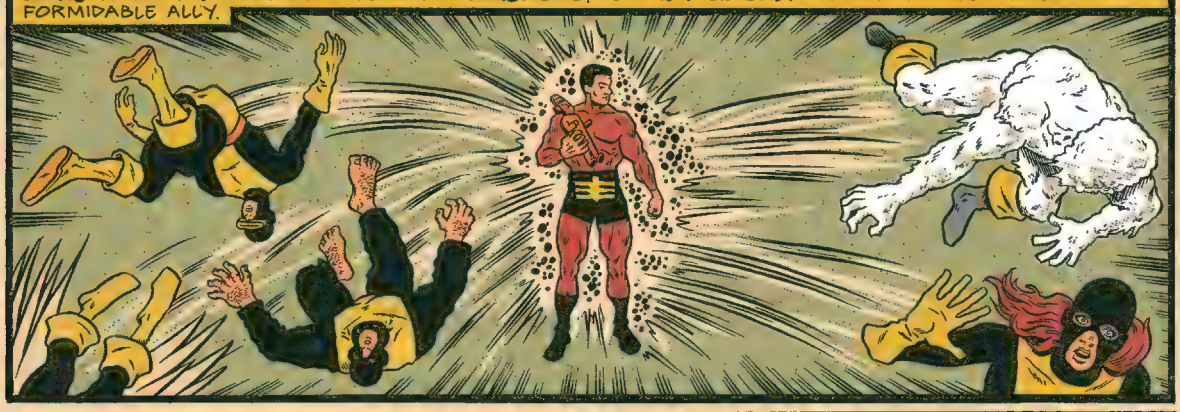


MAGNETO DOESN'T WANT TO APPEAR DESPERATE. HOWEVER THE TRUTH IS HE NEEDS CONSIDERABLE HELP TO ACCOMPLISH HIS IMPERIALISTIC GOALS.

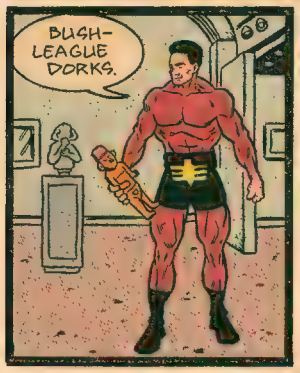


THE INITIATION FOR **THE BROTHERHOOD** IS FRANKLY ARBITRARY, BUT **MAGNETO** WANTS **UNUS** TO BUILD AN INVESTMENT AND FEEL THAT HE'S EARNED HIS OPPORTUNITY.

UNUS WAS A CAUTIOUS BEDFELLOW FOR **MAGNETO**, YET HE'S QUICKLY PROVING HIMSELF TO BE A FORMIDABLE ALLY.



BEFORE THE **X-MEN** COULD FORMULATE A PLAN FOR OVERCOMING AN IMPREGNABLE ADVERSARY...



THE **MUTANT MASTER** ALSO HAS CAUSE TO GENERATE SOME STRONG ALIGNMENTS FOR HIS OWN PURPOSES.

ONE OF **MUTANT MASTER'S** CHIEF LIEUTENANTS ON THE HUNT FOR THE **PHOENIX FORCE** IS **LUCIFER**, WHOSE MISSION RIGHT NOW IS TO PROCURE AS MUCH NUCLEAR MATERIAL AS HE CAN DISCOVER.

THIS AMOUNT OF **URANIUM** COULD ONLY LEAD TO THE CONCLUSION THAT A MASSIVE BOMB IS IN THE WORKS. THE **X-MEN** MAKE IT A PRIORITY TO DISCOVER THE CULPRIT.

ANGEL!

THEY ARE, TO SAY THE LEAST, VERY SLOPPY IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO APPREHEND **LUCIFER**.

!!!

NO!

WHILE THE **X-MEN** SEARCH FOR **LUCIFER'S** BODY, THEY UNEARTH A GIANT WARHEAD LINKED TO HIS HEARTBEAT FOR DETONATION.

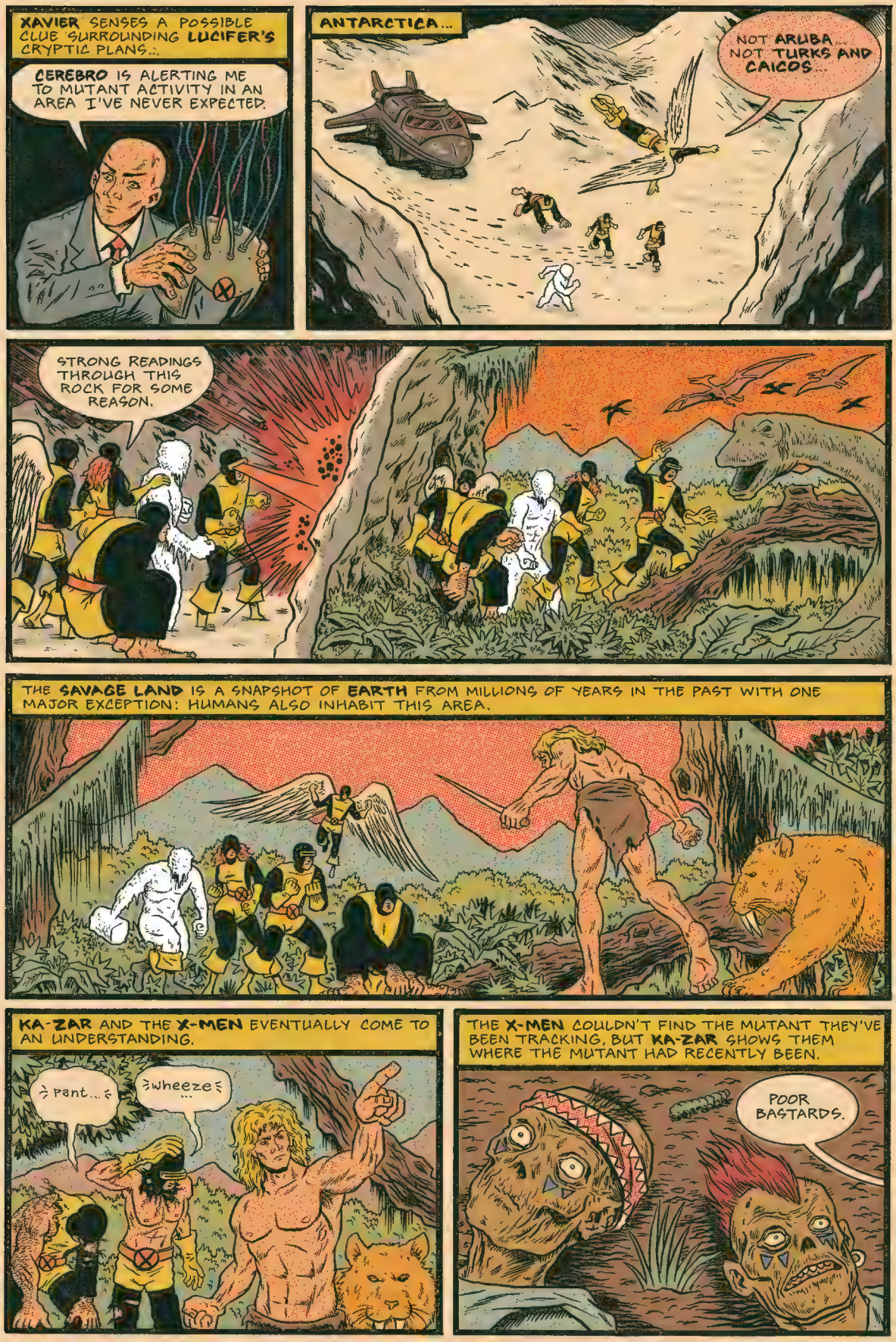
NOW THE GREEN WIRE, **SCOTT**... CAREFUL!

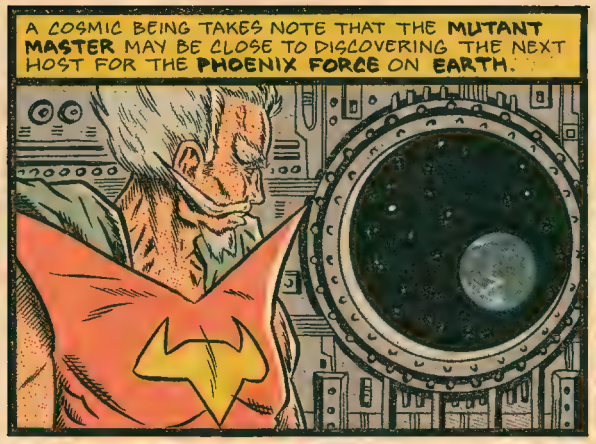
YES, PROFESSOR!

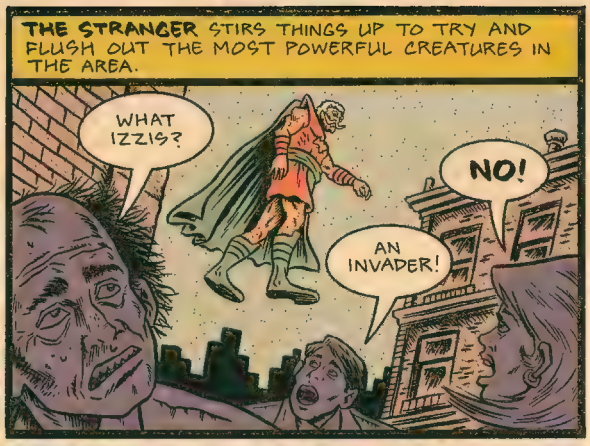
ANGEL, C'MON, WAKE UP, PAL! WAKE UP!!

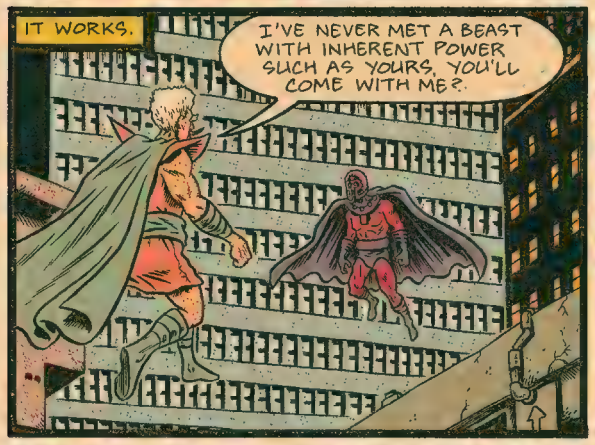
OUT OF SIGHT FROM THE **X-MEN**, **LUCIFER** ADORNS HIS TRUE FORM, SLITHERS AWAY AND REPORTS VALUABLE INTELLIGENCE TO HIS LEADER.

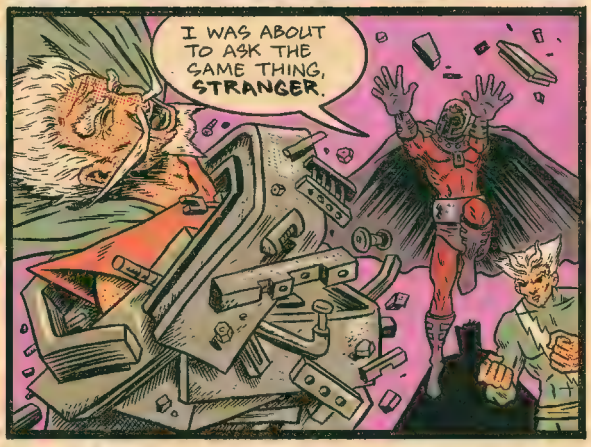
HMMM... THERE WAS NO RADIO-ACTIVE SIGNATURE AROUND **LUCIFER'S** BOMB. WHY ELSE WOULD HE NEED THAT KIND OF **NUCLEAR** ENERGY?!

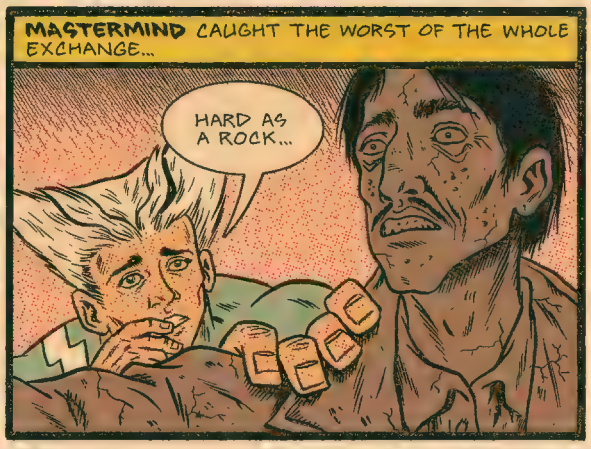

XAVIER SENSES A POSSIBLE CLUE SURROUNDING LUCIFER'S CRYPTIC PLANS...
CEREBRO IS ALERTING ME TO MUTANT ACTIVITY IN AN AREA I'VE NEVER EXPECTED.
ANTARCTICA...
NOT ARUBA... NOT TURKS AND CAICOS...
STRONG READINGS THROUGH THIS ROCK FOR SOME REASON.
THE SAVAGE LAND IS A SNAPSHOT OF EARTH FROM MILLIONS OF YEARS IN THE PAST WITH ONE MAJOR EXCEPTION: HUMANS ALSO INHABIT THIS AREA.
KA-ZAR AND THE X-MEN EVENTUALLY COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING.
pant...
wheeze...
THE X-MEN COULDN'T FIND THE MUTANT THEY'VE BEEN TRACKING, BUT KA-ZAR SHOWS THEM WHERE THE MUTANT HAD RECENTLY BEEN.
POOR BASTARDS.


A COSMIC BEING TAKES NOTE THAT THE **MUTANT MASTER** MAY BE CLOSE TO DISCOVERING THE NEXT HOST FOR THE **PHOENIX FORCE** ON **EARTH**.


THE STRANGER STIRS THINGS UP TO TRY AND FLUSH OUT THE MOST POWERFUL CREATURES IN THE AREA.
WHAT IZZIS?
NO!
AN INVADER!


IT WORKS.
I'VE NEVER MET A BEAST WITH INHERENT POWER SUCH AS YOURS, YOU'LL COME WITH ME?.


I WAS ABOUT TO ASK THE SAME THING, **STRANGER**.

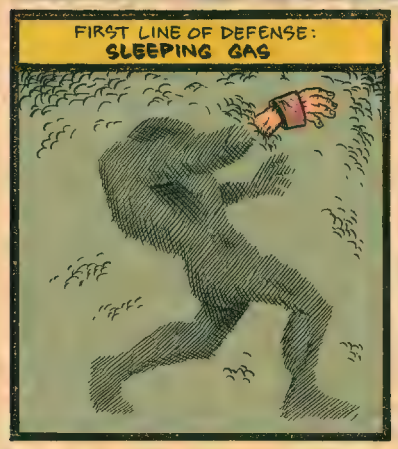

MASTERMIND CAUGHT THE WORST OF THE WHOLE EXCHANGE...
HARD AS A ROCK...

THE STRANGER REGISTERED AS A MUTANT VIA **CEREBRO**, BUT THE **X-MEN** ARRIVED JUST AFTER THE ALIEN DISAPPEARED WITH **MAGNETO**.
HALFWAY TO **MARS** BY NOW.

I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT, BUT I CAN FEEL **MASTERMIND** IS STILL ALIVE IN THAT SHELL.
MAYBE THE **PROFESSOR** CAN HELP.

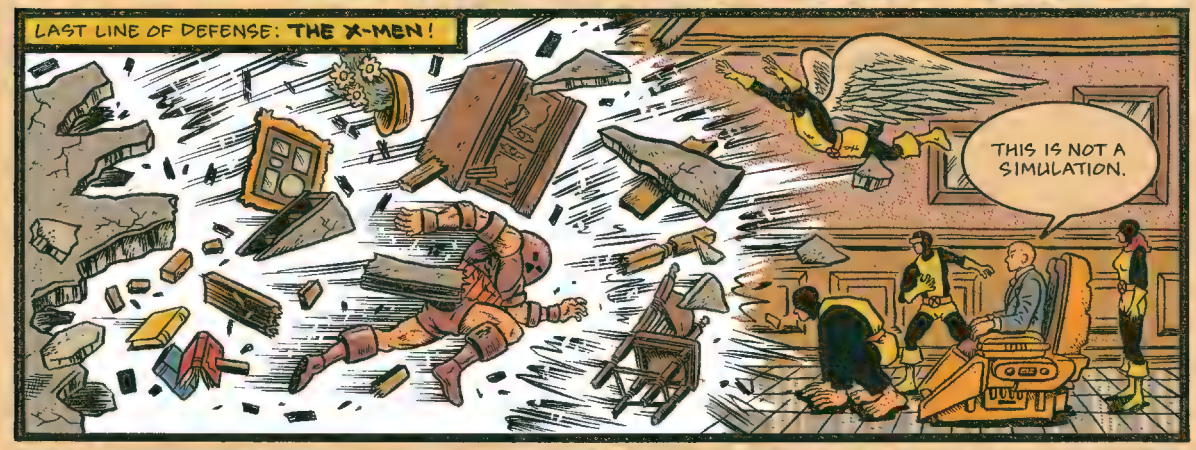
THIS IS DEFINITELY GOING TO BE A CHALLENGE.

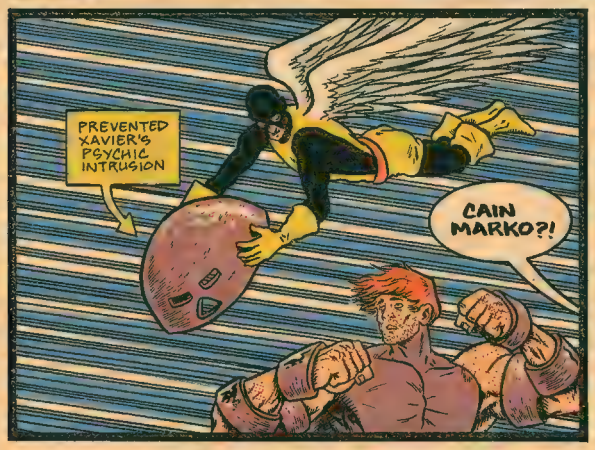
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
HUH?
SOMEONE TRIPPED THE PERIMETER ALARM.


FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE: SLEEPING GAS

SECOND LINE OF DEFENSE: HOMING GRENADES

THIRD LINE OF DEFENSE: ELECTRIC FIELDS


LAST LINE OF DEFENSE: THE X-MEN!
THIS IS NOT A SIMULATION.

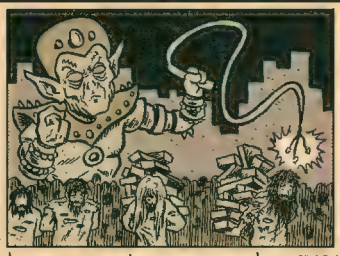

PREVENTED XAVIER'S PSYCHIC INTRUSION
CAIN MARKO?!

ULP!

HEY! MASTERMIND'S BODY IS MISSING.

THE MASS MEDIA'S PROPAGANDA SURROUNDING ESCALATED MUTANT HOSTILITY IS REACHING A TIPPING POINT.

MUTANT MENACE!



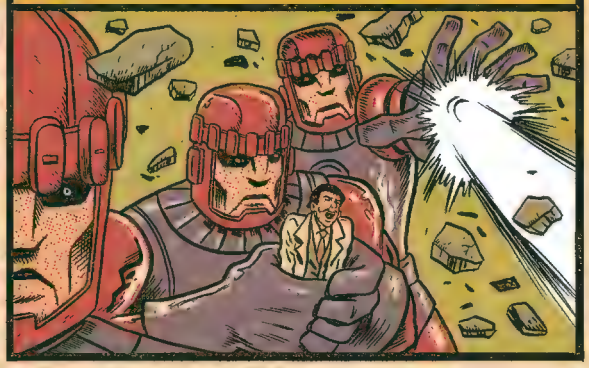
CHARLES XAVIER HOPED FOR INTELLECTUAL DISCOURSE DURING HIS TELEVISED DEBATE.

"**MR. TRASK**, IF YOU ARE PROPOSING TO HUNT DOWN MUTANTS LIKE DOGS...

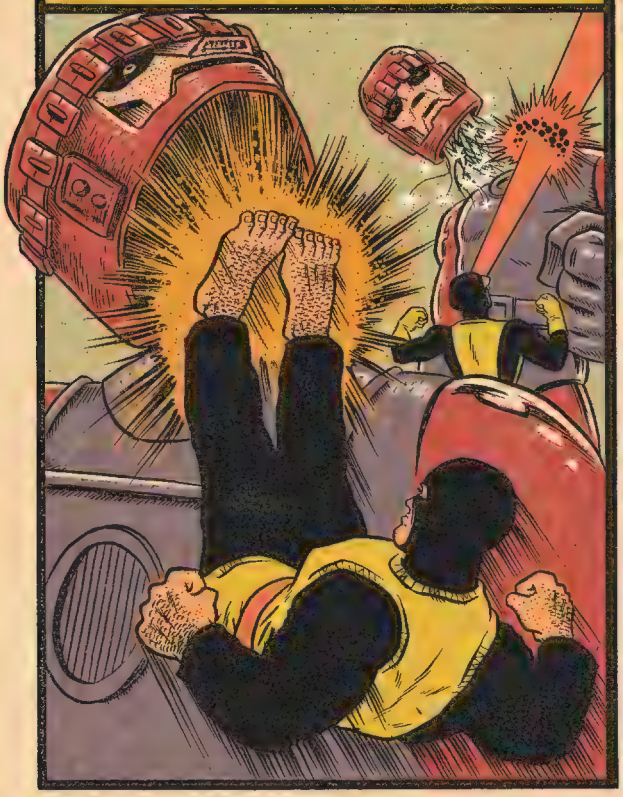
"...THEN HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY CALL OUTSPOKEN MUTANTS '**PARANOID**'?"

UNFORTUNATELY, THE CONVERSATION COULD BE MORE ACCURATELY DESCRIBED AS A COMMERCIAL FOR **BOLIVAR TRASK'S** DEVIOUS GOALS.

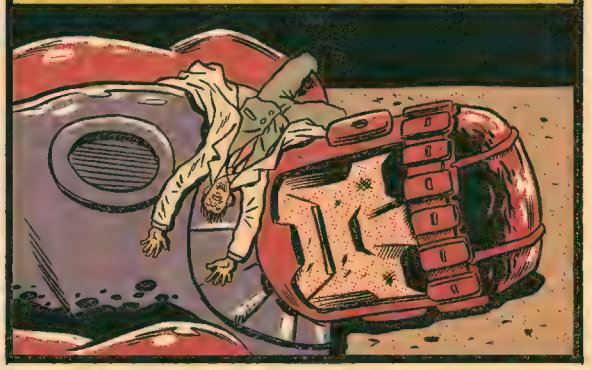
THE **SENTINELS** EXCEL AT MUTANT DETECTION. THE UNFORSEEN ISSUE IS THAT THEY'LL DESTROY ANYTHING BETWEEN THEM AND THEIR TARGET.



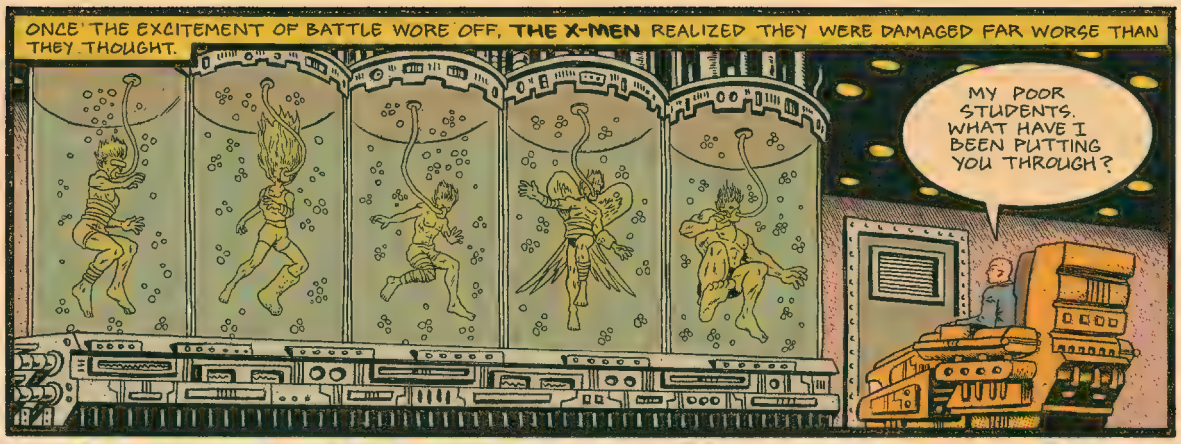
THE SYNERGY OF THE **X-MEN** HAD TO BE FLAWLESS TO OVERCOME THE ROBOT PROTOTYPES AND EVEN STILL, THE MUTANT TEENAGERS ALMOST MET THEIR MATCH.



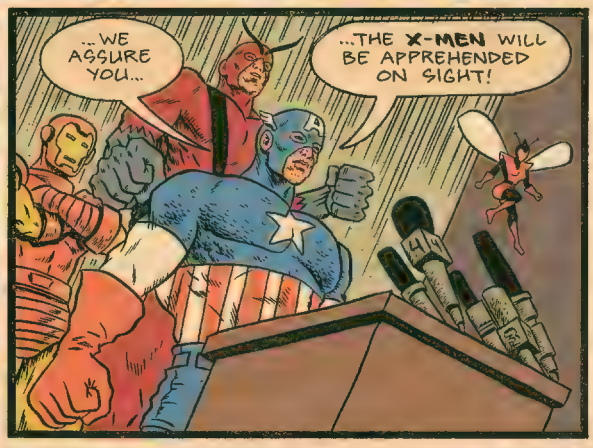
THE ONLY CASUALTY IN THE SCUFFLE IS THE CREATOR OF THESE DISCRIMINATORY WAR MACHINES.

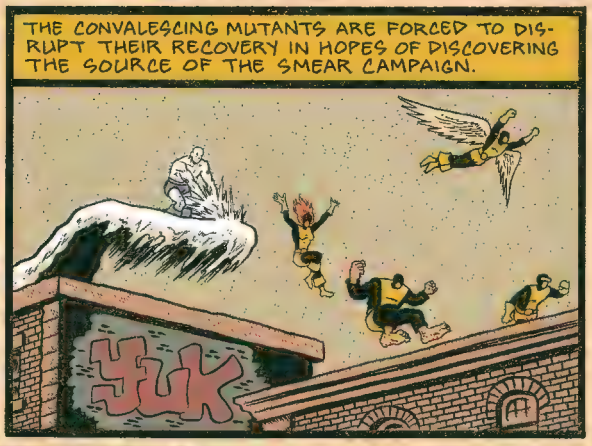


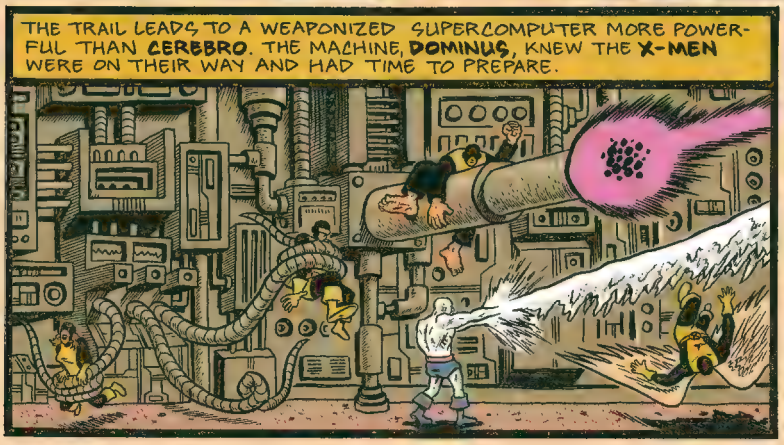
BOLIVAR TRASK'S SON, **LAWRENCE**, KNOWS WHAT TO DO TO CARRY ON THE VISION OF THEIR SECRET CABAL, **THE RIGHT**.


ONCE THE EXCITEMENT OF BATTLE WORE OFF, THE X-MEN REALIZED THEY WERE DAMAGED FAR WORSE THAN THEY THOUGHT.
MY POOR STUDENTS. WHAT HAVE I BEEN PUTTING YOU THROUGH?

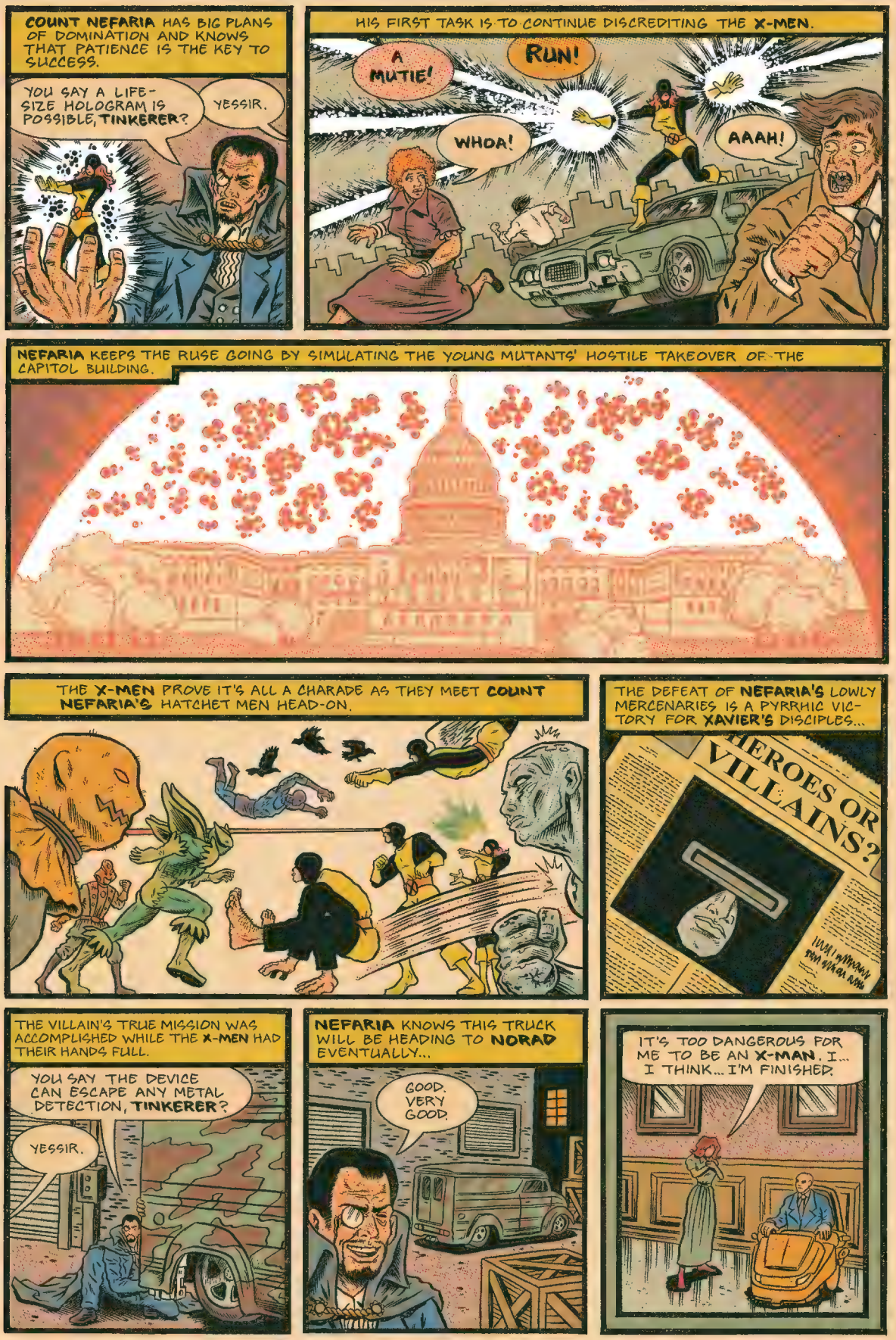
WHILE THE X-MEN ARE OUT OF COMMISSION, MUTANT MASTER TAKES THE OPPORTUNITY TO GENERATE AS MUCH FEAR, HATE AND DISTRUST AGAINST THEM AS POSSIBLE.
BANK
THE BLOB
UNUS "THE UNTOUCHABLE"


...WE ASSURE YOU...
...THE X-MEN WILL BE APPREHENDED ON SIGHT!

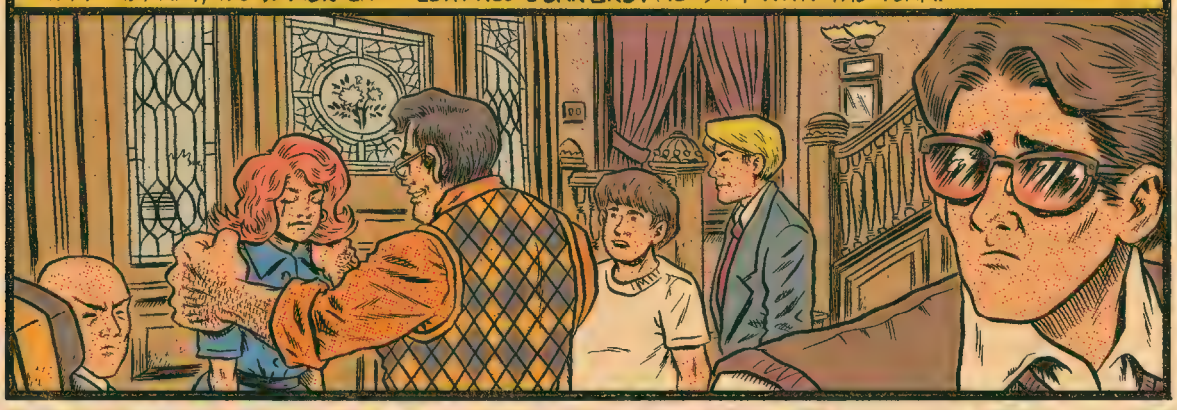

THE CONVALESCING MUTANTS ARE FORCED TO DISRUPT THEIR RECOVERY IN HOPES OF DISCOVERING THE SOURCE OF THE SMEAR CAMPAIGN.
YUK


THE TRAIL LEADS TO A WEAPONIZED SUPERCOMPUTER MORE POWERFUL THAN CEREBRO. THE MACHINE, DOMINUS, KNEW THE X-MEN WERE ON THEIR WAY AND HAD TIME TO PREPARE.

AFTER BEING DISMANTLED BY THE X-MEN, BEAST REALIZES THE COMPUTER WAS POWERED BY TREMENDOUS NUCLEAR ENERGY.
I BELIEVE LUCIFER WAS BEHIND THIS...


COUNT NEFARIA HAS BIG PLANS OF DOMINATION AND KNOWS THAT PATIENCE IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS.
YOU SAY A LIFE-SIZE HOLOGRAM IS POSSIBLE, TINKERER?
YESSIR.
HIS FIRST TASK IS TO CONTINUE DISCREDITING THE X-MEN.
A MUTIE!
RUN!
WHOA!
AAAH!
NEFARIA KEEPS THE RUSE GOING BY SIMULATING THE YOUNG MUTANTS' HOSTILE TAKEOVER OF THE CAPITOL BUILDING.
THE X-MEN PROVE IT'S ALL A CHARADE AS THEY MEET COUNT NEFARIA'S HATCHET MEN HEAD-ON.
THE DEFEAT OF NEFARIA'S LOWLY MERCENARIES IS A PYRRHIC VICTORY FOR XAVIER'S DISCIPLES...
HEROES OR VILLAINS?
THE VILLAIN'S TRUE MISSION WAS ACCOMPLISHED WHILE THE X-MEN HAD THEIR HANDS FULL.
YOU SAY THE DEVICE CAN ESCAPE ANY METAL DETECTION, TINKERER?
YESSIR.
NEFARIA KNOWS THIS TRUCK WILL BE HEADING TO NORAD EVENTUALLY...
GOOD. VERY GOOD.
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS FOR ME TO BE AN X-MAN. I... I THINK... I'M FINISHED.

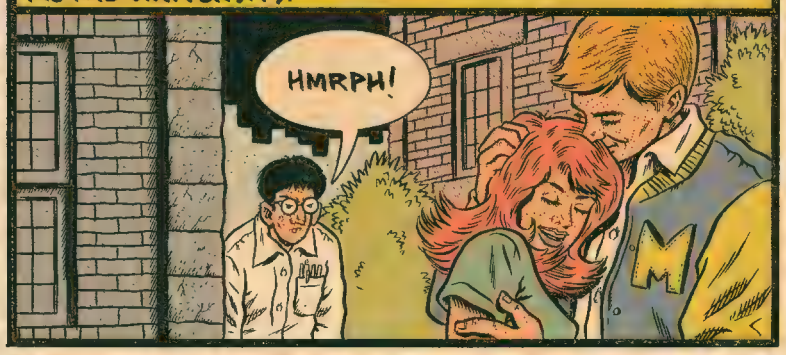
TRY AS THEY MAY, THE **X-MEN** CAN'T CONVINCE **JEAN GREY** TO STAY WITH THE TEAM.

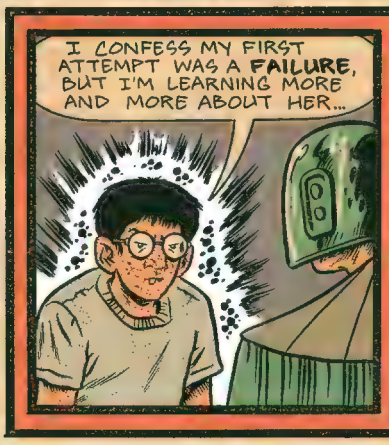


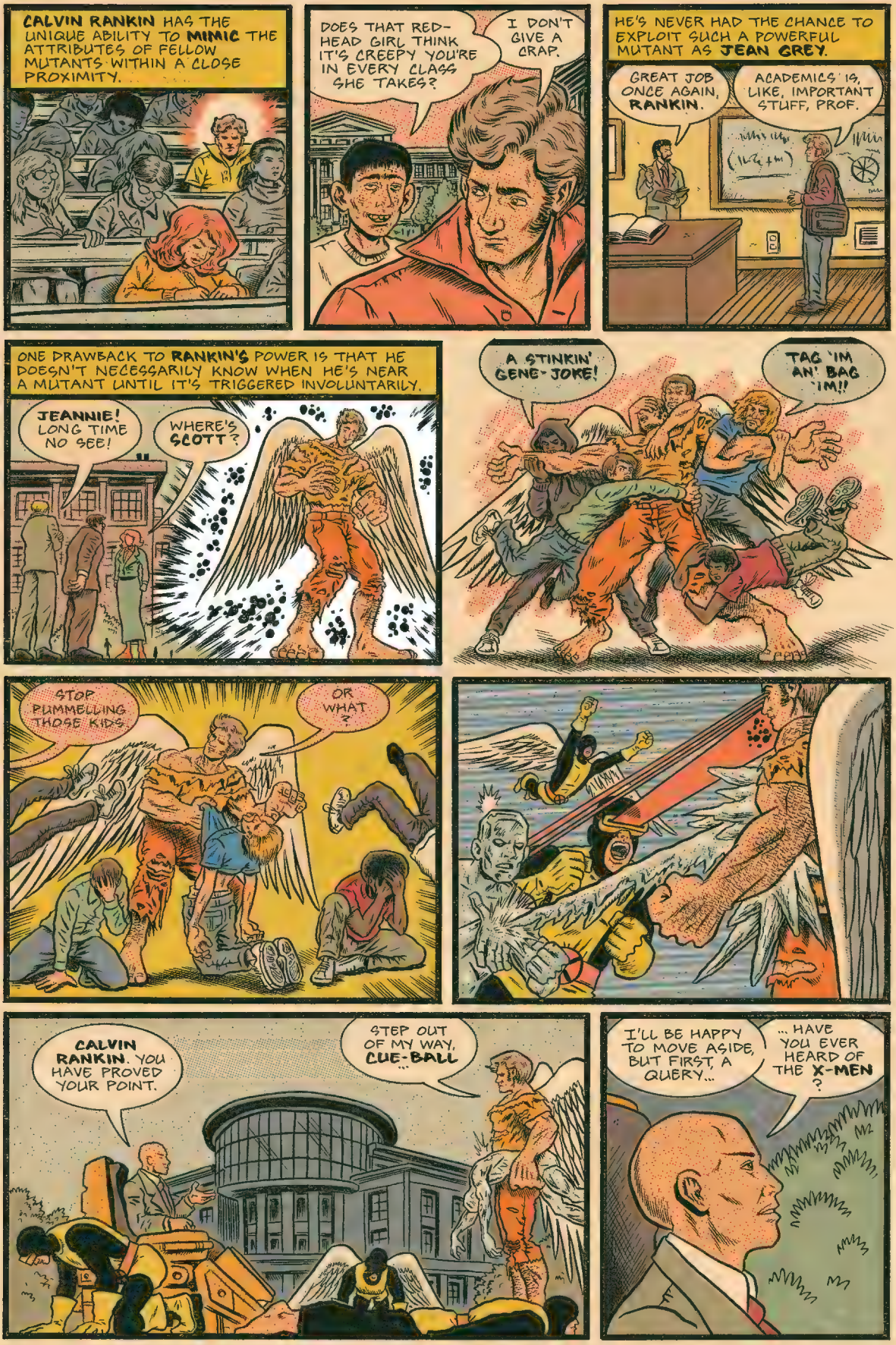
JEAN'S TRANSITION INTO A PURELY ACADEMIC LIFE WOULD ALWAYS BE TESTED AS NEW CATASTROPHES BEFALL THE CITY OF **NEW YORK**.

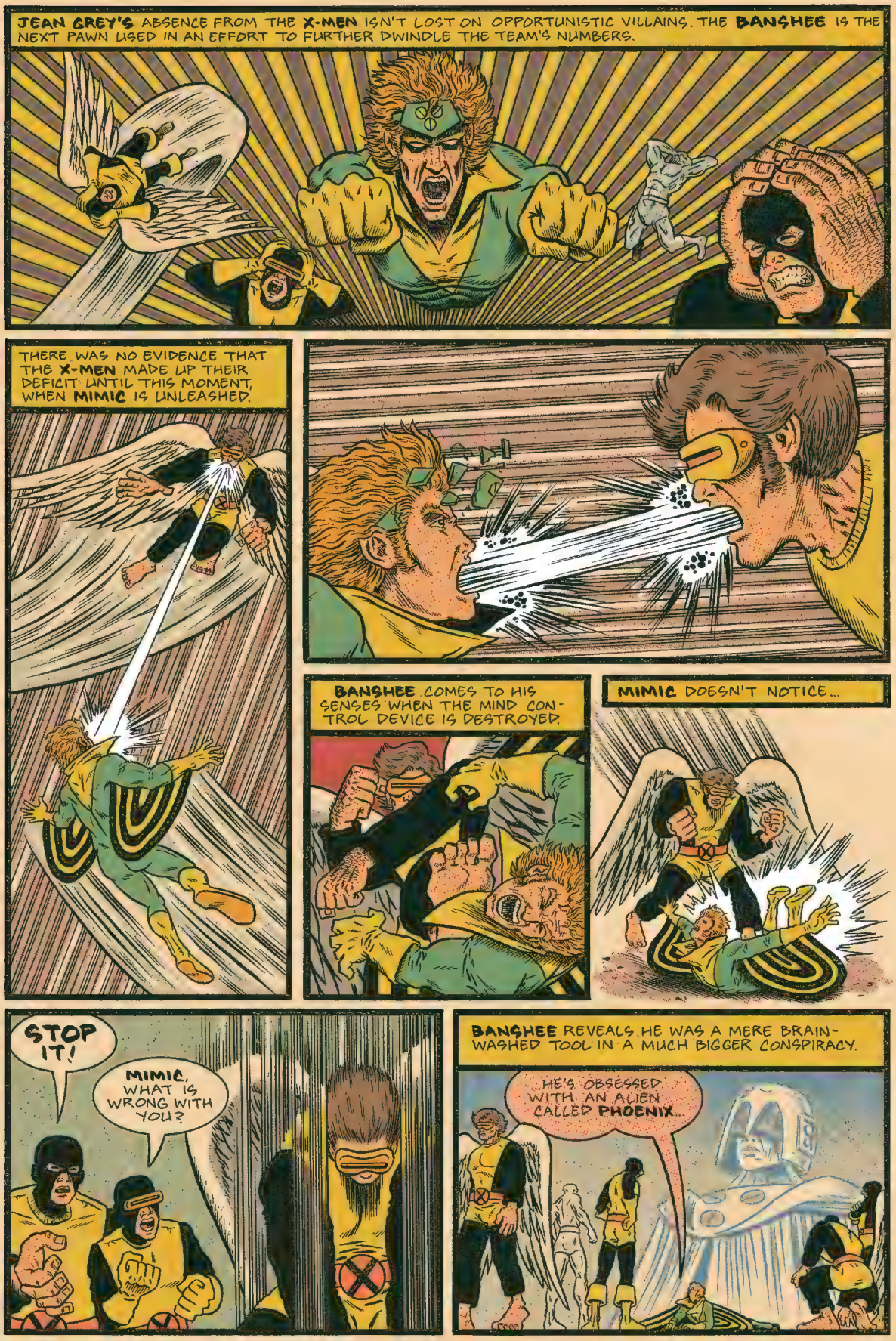
SHE WOULD DROWN HERSELF IN HER STUDIES AS A DISTRACTION.

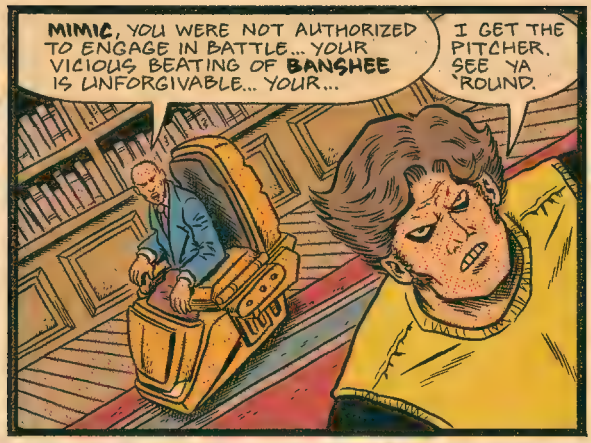
WHEN **JEAN** WAS ABLE TO PUSH HER AFFECTIONS FOR **SCOTT SUMMERS** TO THE BACK OF HER MIND, HER ROMANTIC INTERESTS BECAME ENTERTAINED BY **TED ROBERTS**, A STAR ATHLETE AT **METRO UNIVERSITY**.

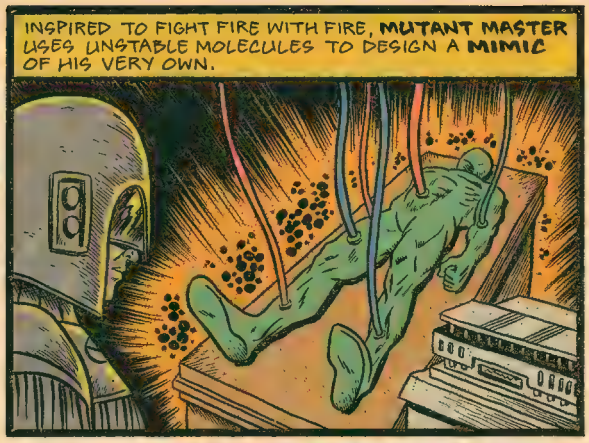


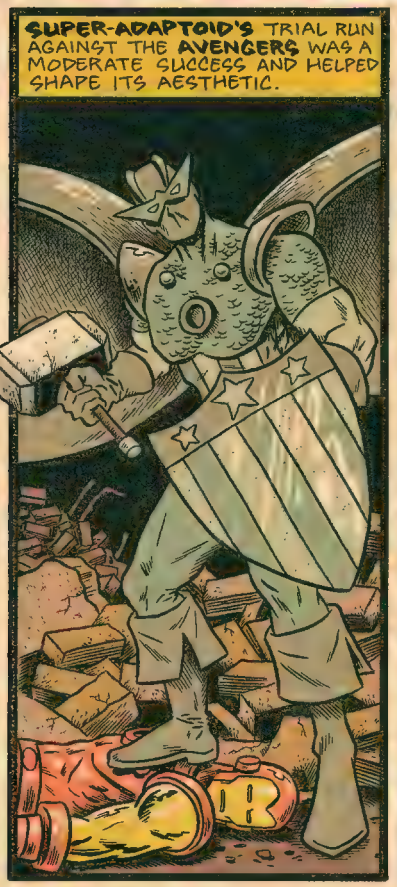


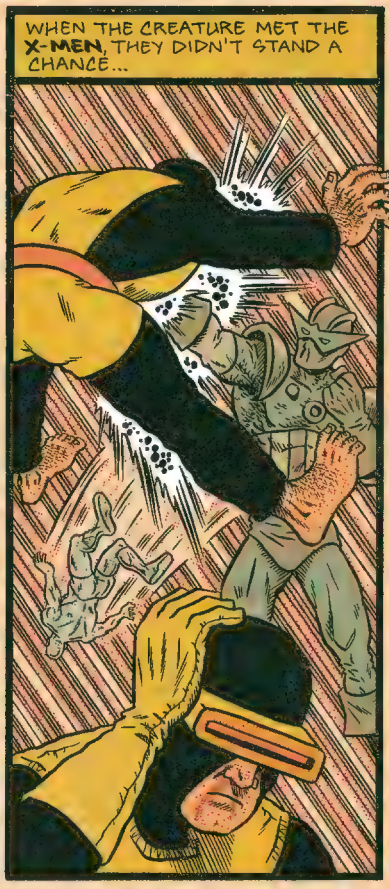

CALVIN RANKIN HAS THE UNIQUE ABILITY TO MIMIC THE ATTRIBUTES OF FELLOW MUTANTS WITHIN A CLOSE PROXIMITY.
DOES THAT RED-HEAD GIRL THINK IT'S CREEPY YOU'RE IN EVERY CLASS SHE TAKES?
I DON'T GIVE A CRAP.
HE'S NEVER HAD THE CHANCE TO EXPLOIT SUCH A POWERFUL MUTANT AS JEAN GREY.
GREAT JOB ONCE AGAIN, RANKIN.
ACADEMICS IS, LIKE, IMPORTANT STUFF, PROF.
ONE DRAWBACK TO RANKIN'S POWER IS THAT HE DOESN'T NECESSARILY KNOW WHEN HE'S NEAR A MUTANT UNTIL IT'S TRIGGERED INVOLUNTARILY.
JEANNIE! LONG TIME NO SEE!
WHERE'S SCOTT?
A STINKIN' GENE-JOKE!
TAG 'IM AN' BAG 'IM!!
STOP PUMMELLING THOSE KIDS.
OR WHAT?
CALVIN RANKIN. YOU HAVE PROVED YOUR POINT.
STEP OUT OF MY WAY, CUE-BALL...
I'LL BE HAPPY TO MOVE ASIDE, BUT FIRST, A QUERY...
... HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE X-MEN?

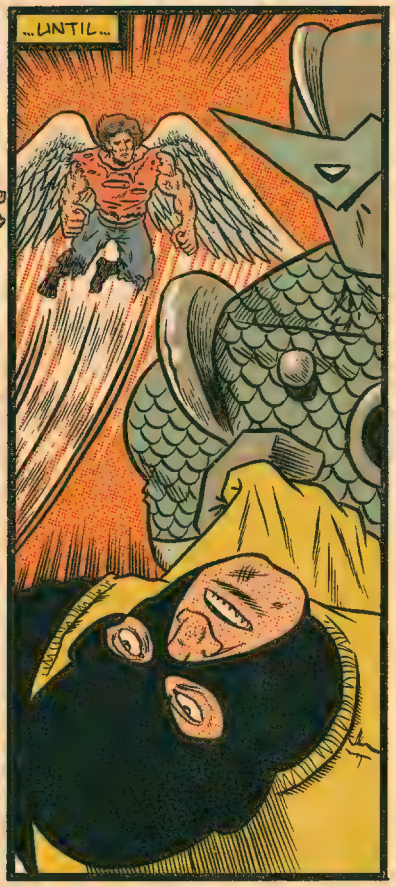

JEAN GREY'S ABSENCE FROM THE X-MEN ISN'T LOST ON OPPORTUNISTIC VILLAINS. THE BANSHEE IS THE NEXT PAWN USED IN AN EFFORT TO FURTHER DWINDLE THE TEAM'S NUMBERS.
THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE X-MEN MADE UP THEIR DEFICIT UNTIL THIS MOMENT, WHEN MIMIC IS UNLEASHED.
BANSHEE COMES TO HIS SENSES WHEN THE MIND CONTROL DEVICE IS DESTROYED.
MIMIC DOESN'T NOTICE...
STOP IT!
MIMIC, WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?
BANSHEE REVEALS HE WAS A MERE BRAINWASHED TOOL IN A MUCH BIGGER CONSPIRACY.
...HE'S OBSESSED WITH AN ALIEN CALLED PHOENIX...

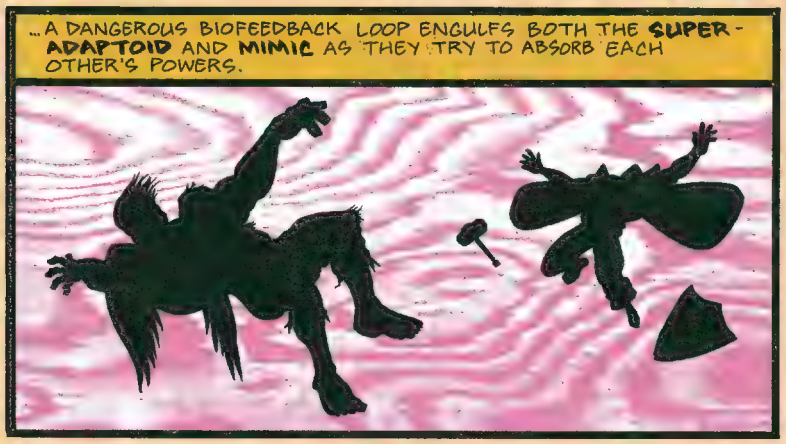

MIMIC, YOU WERE NOT AUTHORIZED TO ENGAGE IN BATTLE... YOUR VICIOUS BEATING OF BANSHEE IS UNFORGIVABLE... YOUR...
I GET THE PITCHER. SEE YA 'ROUND.

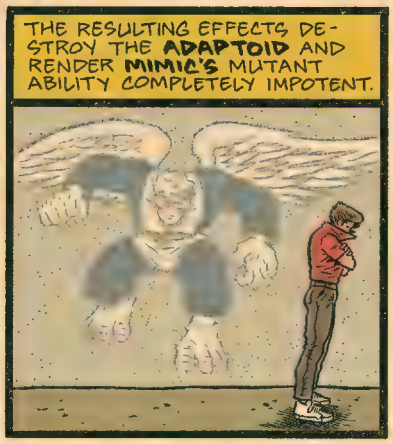

INSPIRED TO FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE, MUTANT MASTER USES UNSTABLE MOLECULES TO DESIGN A MIMIC OF HIS VERY OWN.


SUPER-ADAPTOID'S TRIAL RUN AGAINST THE AVENGERS WAS A MODERATE SUCCESS AND HELPED SHAPE ITS AESTHETIC.


WHEN THE CREATURE MET THE X-MEN, THEY DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE...


...UNTIL...

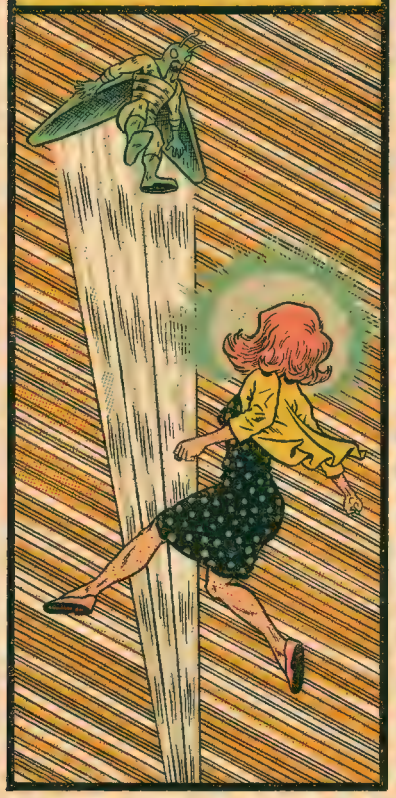

...A DANGEROUS BIOFEEDBACK LOOP ENGULFS BOTH THE SUPER-ADAPTOID AND MIMIC AS THEY TRY TO ABSORB EACH OTHER'S POWERS.


THE RESULTING EFFECTS DESTROY THE ADAPTOID AND RENDER MIMIC'S MUTANT ABILITY COMPLETELY IMPOTENT.

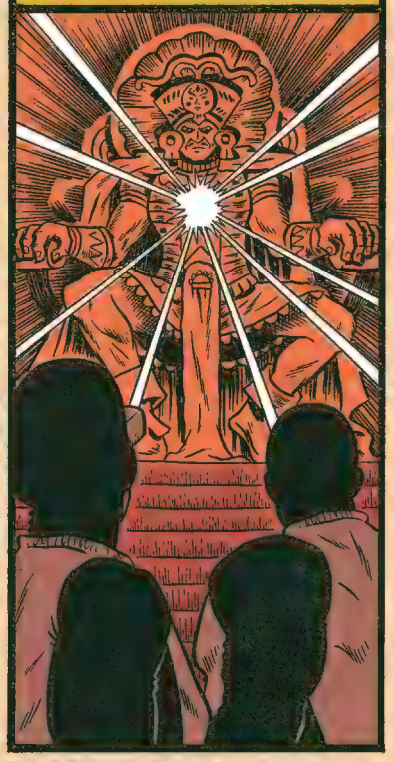
1
WHA?
WHERE ARE YOU YOU TAKING ME?
2
MERLIN?!
3
MY PRINCESS. WE HAVE IMPORTANT BUSINESS. BACK AT THE CASTLE!
HOW WILL WE GET THERE?
4
THE ROYAL UNICORNS, OF COURSE...
HOW COULD I FORGET?
5
IT WILL BE A FUN DAY. I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU ENJOY EXECUTIONS...
6
THIS PEASANT CALLED XAVIER HAS BEEN OPERATING AGAINST YOUR BEST INTERESTS, MY PRINCESS!
JEAN!
7
LISTEN TO ME, JEAN! FIGHT HARD!! AN EVIL FORCE IS INSIDE YOUR MIND!
8
I PREPARED YOU FOR THIS, JEAN! YOU CAN'T LET HIM WIN!
9
THIS GIVES ME AN EMPTY FEELING, MERLIN.
10
FIGHT, JEAN!!
AAAAAAH!
IS EVERYTHING OKAY, JEANNIE?
GO BACK TO SLEEP, TED.

IT WOULD BE A DRASTIC UNDERSTATEMENT TO SUGGEST THAT **JEAN GREY** ESCAPED THE SUPER-HERO LIFESTYLE WHILE AT **METRO UNIVERSITY**.

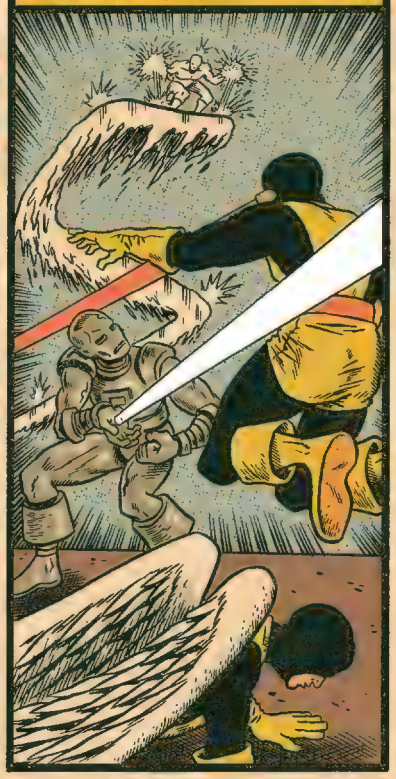
A ROGUE ENTOMOLOGIST AT THE SCHOOL, CALLING HIMSELF THE **LOCUST**, HAD DESTRUCTIVE PLANS THAT **JEAN** THWARTED.



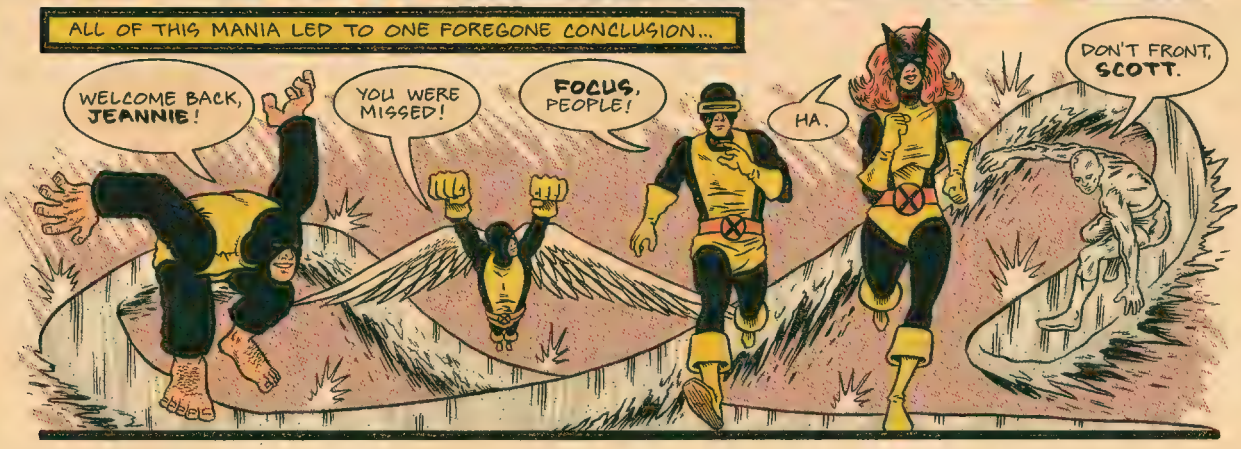
SHE SOLICITED THE HELP OF THE **X-MEN** WHEN **KUKULKAN** RAIDED THE ARCHAEOLOGY DEPARTMENT FOR A RECENTLY UNEARTHED, ANCIENT MAYAN PENDANT.

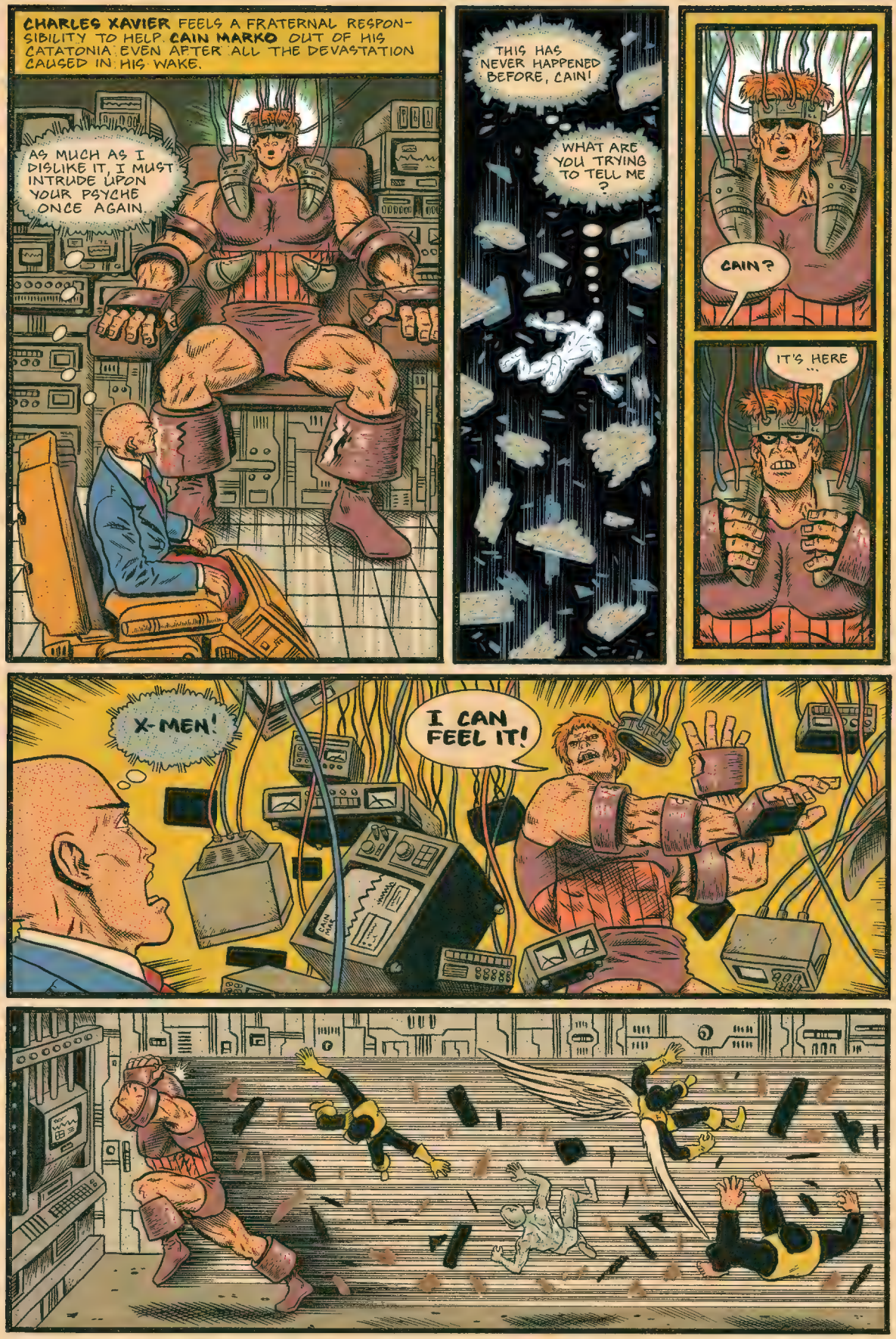


THE DAILY BUGLE CALLED THIS WALKING ATOMIC BOMB **COBALT MAN**. THE **X-MEN** MADE SHORT WORK OF HIM, BUT THE PUBLIC DIDN'T HATE THEM ANY LESS.

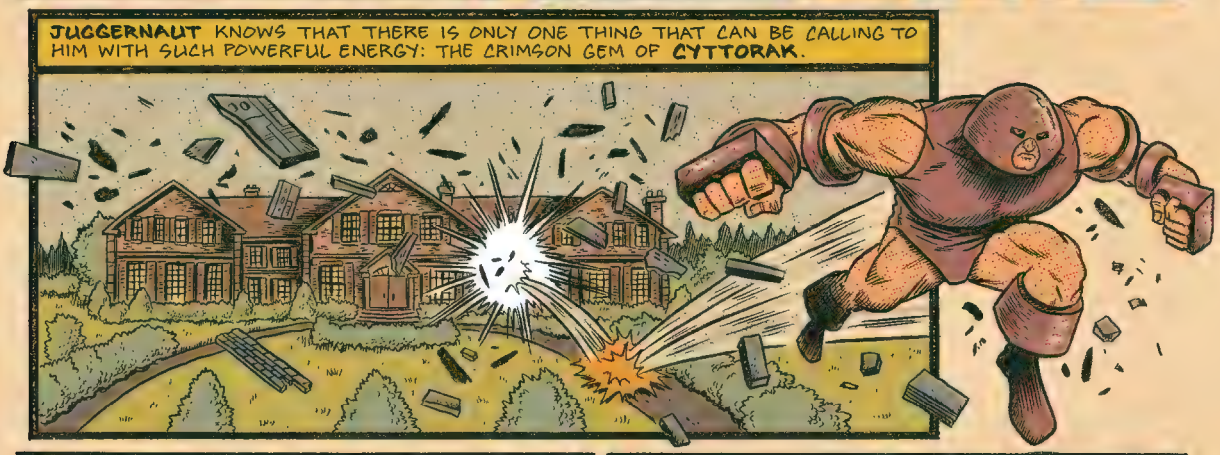


ALL OF THIS MANIA LED TO ONE FOREGONE CONCLUSION...



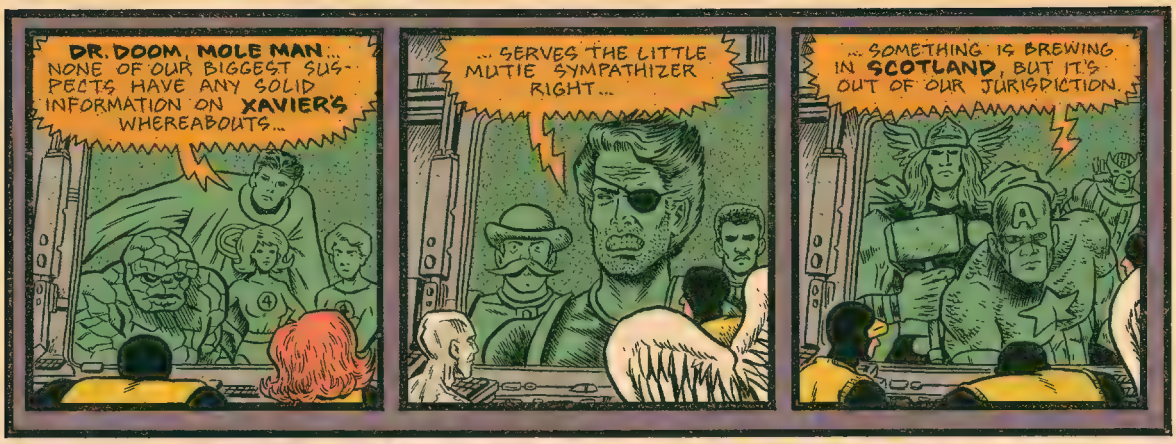

CHARLES XAVIER FEELS A FRATERNAL RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP CAIN MARKO OUT OF HIS CATATONIA EVEN AFTER ALL THE DEVASTATION CAUSED IN HIS WAKE.
AS MUCH AS I DISLIKE IT, I MUST INTRUDE UPON YOUR PSYCHE ONCE AGAIN.
THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE, CAIN!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME ?
CAIN ?
IT'S HERE ...
X-MEN!
I CAN FEEL IT!

WHERE...
...WHERE'S THE PROFESSOR?

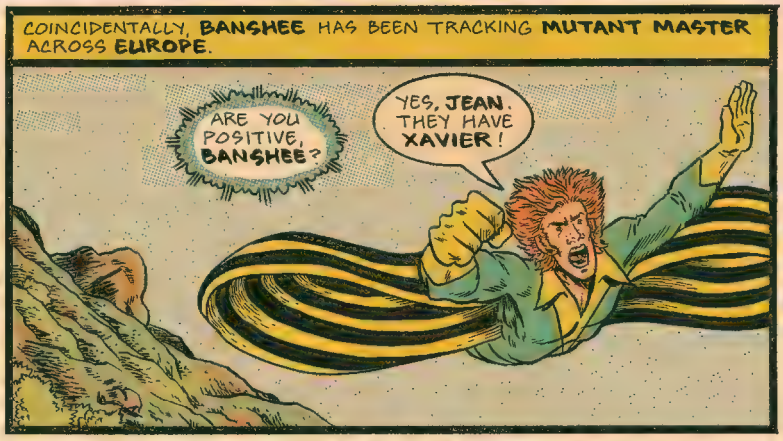

JUGGERNAUT KNOWS THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE THING THAT CAN BE CALLING TO HIM WITH SUCH POWERFUL ENERGY: THE CRIMSON GEM OF CYTTORAK.

HOWEVER, HE WASN'T EXPECTING BANSHEE'S EVIL COUSIN, BLACK TOM CASSIDY, TO HAVE HIS FOUL HANDS CLUTCHING THE PRIZED CRYSTAL.
GIMME MY RUBY!!
AY, BOYO, LOOKS LIKE YE HAVE FAMILY TROUBLES TOO, EH?

PROFESSOR XAVIER?
PROFESSOR ?
PROFESSOR ????
NO LUCK, JEAN?


DR. DOOM, MOLE MAN... NONE OF OUR BIGGEST SUSPECTS HAVE ANY SOLID INFORMATION ON XAVIER'S WHEREABOUTS...
... SERVES THE LITTLE MUTIE SYMPATHIZER RIGHT...
... SOMETHING IS BREWING IN SCOTLAND, BUT IT'S OUT OF OUR JURISDICTION.

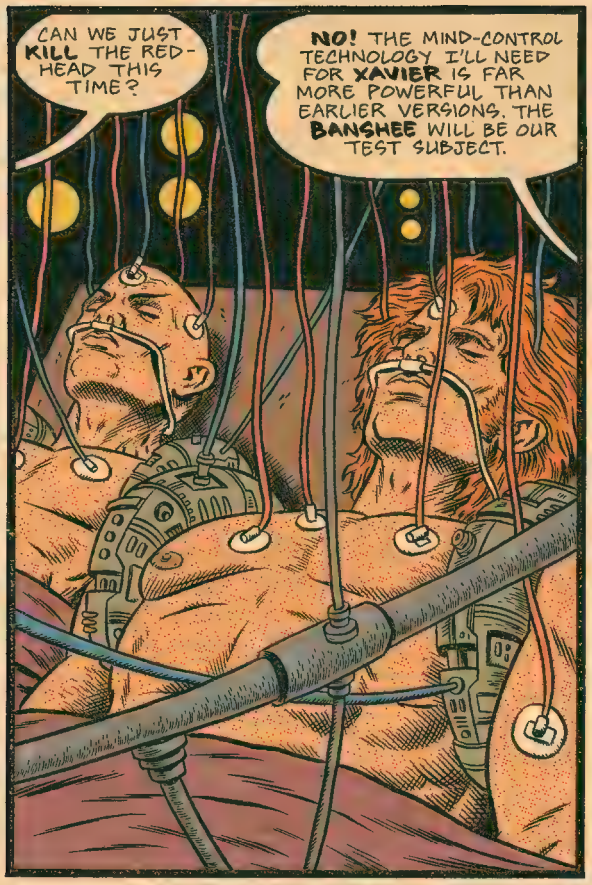
INSPIRED BY THIS POSSIBLE LEAD REGARDING PROFESSOR X'S LOCATION, JEAN GREY ATTEMPTS TO BOOST HER EXISTING MENTAL POWERS IN A WAY SHE'S NEVER TRIED BEFORE...


COINCIDENTALLY, BANSHEE HAS BEEN TRACKING MUTANT MASTER ACROSS EUROPE.
ARE YOU POSITIVE, BANSHEE?
YES, JEAN. THEY HAVE XAVIER!

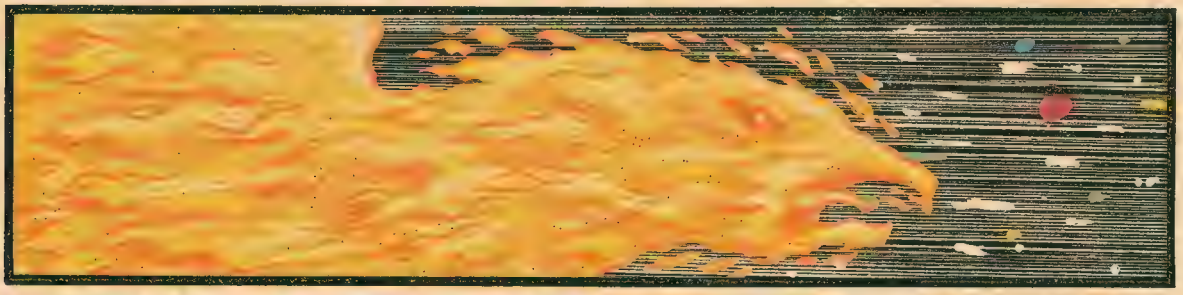
I'M ON MY WAY TO GO GET 'IM FER YE...
... LEAST I C'N DO...

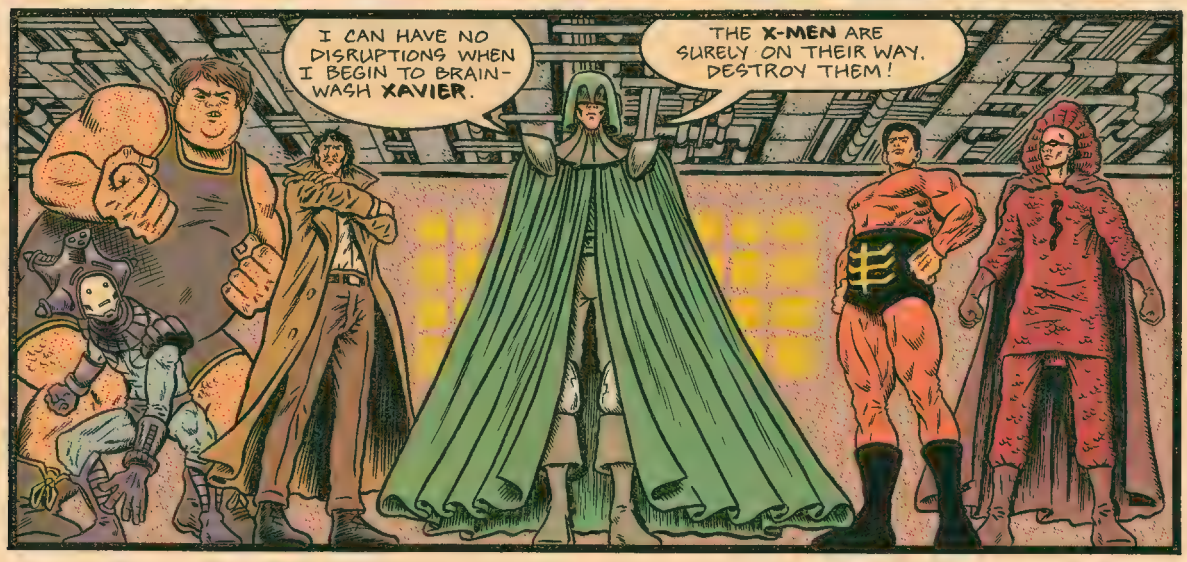
BANSHEE, LOOK OUT!

BANSHEE!



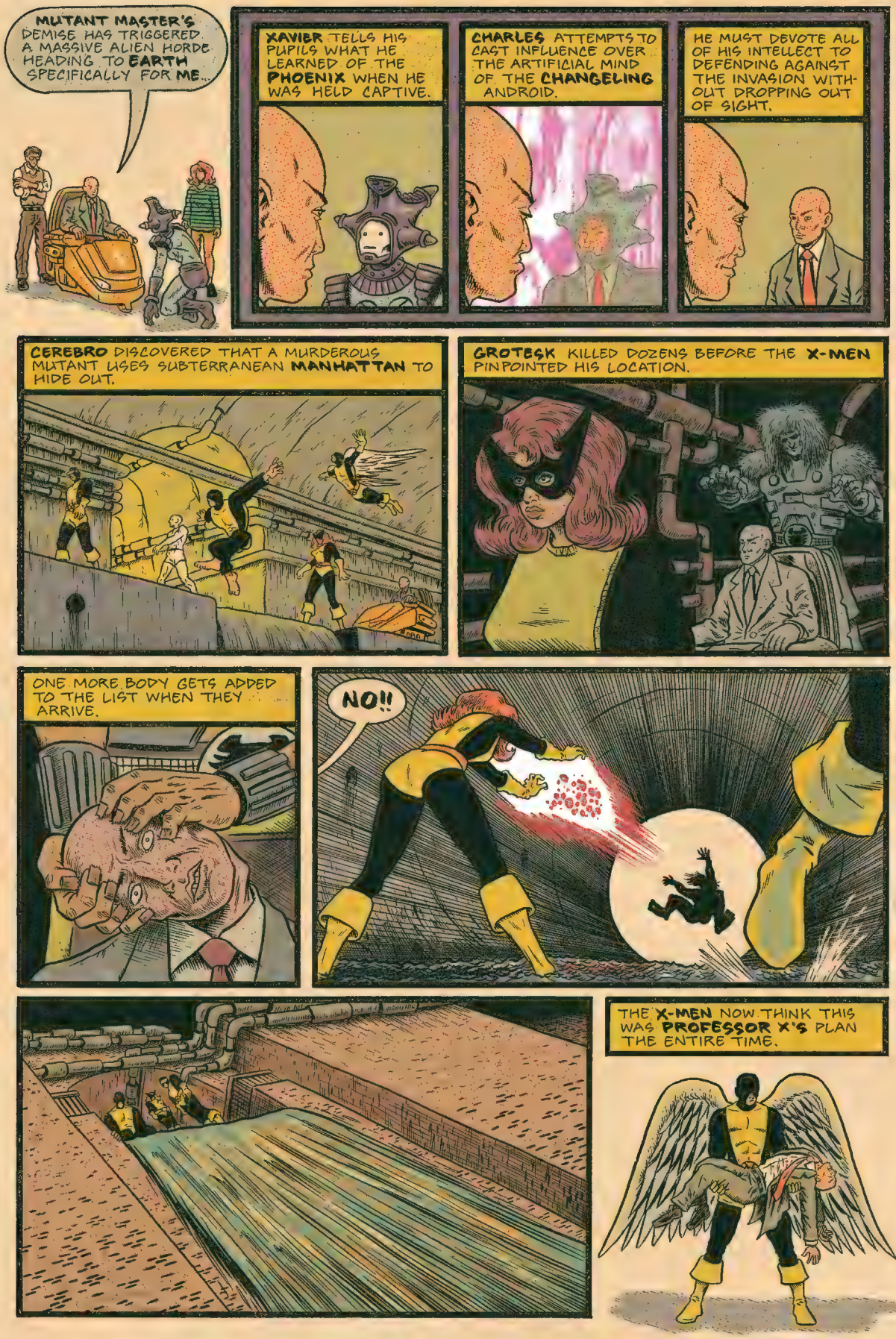
"... WE WILL MAKE THE PHOENIX OUR PUPPET AND WIELD ULTIMATE POWER IN EVERY KNOWN UNIVERSE."





THIS MUTANT CALLED FORGE WAS COMMISSIONED BY XAVIER TO BUILD MOST OF THE X-MEN'S TECHNOLOGY.
THE DANGER ROOM AND THE BLACKBIRD JET ARE SOME OF HIS MOST AMBITIOUS CREATIONS.
THE BLACKBIRD IS COMPLETELY INVISIBLE TO EVERY EARTHLY FORM OF RADAR.
FORGE DIDN'T ACCOUNT FOR AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL ADVERSARY.
THE X-MEN'S TRAINING DID, HOWEVER, COVER CONTINGENCIES SUCH AS THIS.
THE KIDS STILL HAVE A LOT TO LEARN.
CYCLOPS' LAST CONSCIOUS THOUGHT IS THAT, BY BEING ATTACKED, THEY MUST BE IN THE CORRECT PLACE.
WHEN HE WAKES UP HIS SUSPICIONS ARE CONFIRMED.

POOR JEAN GREY USES WHAT'S LEFT OF HER MENTAL RESERVES TO JOSTLE BANSHEE AND PROFESSOR X AWAKE.
BEFORE HIS FACADE GETS COMPLETELY WIPED AWAY, MUTANT MASTER REALIZES HE SHOULD HAVE LET HIS MEN KILL BANSHEE WHEN THEY MADE THE SUGGESTION.
NOW THAT MUTANT MASTER IS EXPOSED, HE CHOOSES THE ONLY ACCEPTIBLE OPTION FOR A DISGRACED MEMBER OF HIS SPECIES...
GIT THAT LYING SUCKER!
...SELF-DESTRUCTION!
RUN...
...RUN!


MUTANT MASTER'S DEMISE HAS TRIGGERED A MASSIVE ALIEN HORDE HEADING TO EARTH SPECIFICALLY FOR ME...
XAVIER TELLS HIS PUPILS WHAT HE LEARNED OF THE PHOENIX WHEN HE WAS HELD CAPTIVE.
CHARLES ATTEMPTS TO CAST INFLUENCE OVER THE ARTIFICIAL MIND OF THE CHANGELING ANDROID.
HE MUST DEVOTE ALL OF HIS INTELLECT TO DEFENDING AGAINST THE INVASION WITHOUT DROPPING OUT OF SIGHT.
CEREBRO DISCOVERED THAT A MURDEROUS MUTANT USES SUBTERRANEAN MANHATTAN TO HIDE OUT.
GROTESK KILLED DOZENS BEFORE THE X-MEN PINPOINTED HIS LOCATION.
ONE MORE BODY GETS ADDED TO THE LIST WHEN THEY ARRIVE.
NO!!
THE X-MEN NOW THINK THIS WAS PROFESSOR X'S PLAN THE ENTIRE TIME.

THE **X-MEN** WERE INCREDIBLY UNCOMFORTABLE KEEPING UP THE DECEPTION TO THE EXTENT **XAVIER** REQUIRED, BUT THEY HAD TO TRUST THE RUSE WAS FOR A GREATER PURPOSE.

...DUST TO DUST...

>SOB...<

AFTER WHAT SEEMED LIKE AN ETERNITY, **MAGNETO** WAS BACK ON PLANET **EARTH**, FAR FROM THE **STRANGER'S** DOMINION.

THE **STRANGER** COLLECTED BEINGS HE THOUGHT MIGHT BE POTENTIAL SUITORS FOR THE ALL-POWERFUL **PHOENIX FORCE**.

<YOU'LL HAVE SOME COMPANY UNTIL I PREPARE AN EXHIBIT FOR THIS NEW ONE.> *

* TRANSLATED FROM ALIEN LANGUAGE. -- ED

IT WAS AN ACT OF FOLLY TO PUT A METAL MACHINE MAN NEAR **MAGNUS**.

THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM LOCATES A VESSEL OF FAMILIAR ALLOYS. HE DOESN'T NEED TO BE A MASTER PILOT TO ESCAPE.

THIS CAN, HOWEVER, MAKE FOR A VERY HARSH LANDING.

MAGNETO SWORE WHEN HE TOUCHED DOWN. HE WAS SOMEWHERE IN **ANTARCTICA**, BUT AFTER EMERGING FROM THE RUBBLE HE REALIZES HE'S IN PARADISE.

NOW, HERE HE STANDS...

GOODBYE, **CHARLES** ...

SILLY FOR THE **X-MEN** TO THINK THEY COULD FIND REFUGE FROM THEIR DECEPTION BACK AT THEIR MANSION.

YOU MUTIES HAVE FIVE MINUTES TO CLUE ME IN ON WHAT'S GOIN' ON.

WE KNOW THAT **XAVIER** AIN'T DEAD.

MY GUYS ARE TRACKING HIM ACROSS THE COUNTRY AS WE SPEAK. WE GOT WAYS UH SEEIN' THROUGH HIS DISGUISES.

SO TELL ME. WHAT'S WITH ALL THE SHENANIGANS?

THE TOTAL INSUBORDINATION OF **XAVIER'S** YOUNG STUDENTS PUSHES THE HAND OF **NICK FURY**, AGENT OF **S.H.I.E.L.D.***

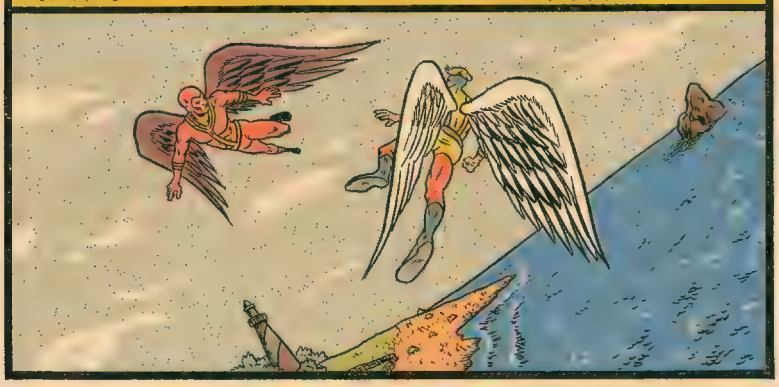
...EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, THE **X-MEN** TEAM ARE NO LONGER TO OPERATE UNLESS DIRECTLY AUTHORIZED BY **ME**...

...DISOBEDIENCE WILL BE CONSIDERED AN ACT OF **TERRORISM**.

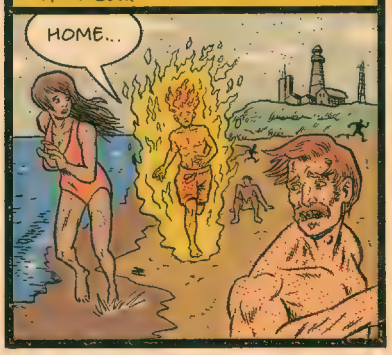
* STRATEGIC HAZARD INTERVENTION ESPIONAGE LOGISTICS DIRECTORATE

FURY SAID NOTHING ABOUT PREVENTING THE BAND OF MUTANTS FROM OPERATING INDEPENDENTLY WHILE CARRYING ON **PROFESSOR X'S** MISSION.

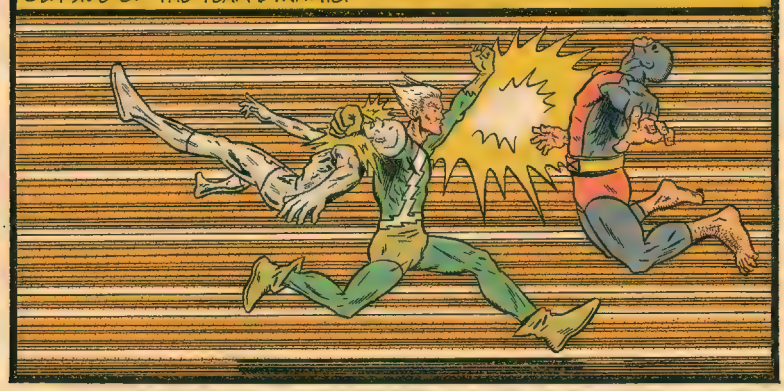
OFF THE SHORES OF **LONG ISLAND**, THE **ANGEL** MEETS A MYSTERIOUS **RED RAVEN**.



WITHIN EYESHOT OF THEIR SCUFFLE, A YOUNG MUTANT NAMED **JOHN** FALLS INTO AN ABRUPT TRANCE...



IN **SAN FRANCISCO**, **BEAST** AND **ICEMAN** REALIZE THEIR DEFICIENCIES OUTSIDE OF THE TEAM DYNAMIC.

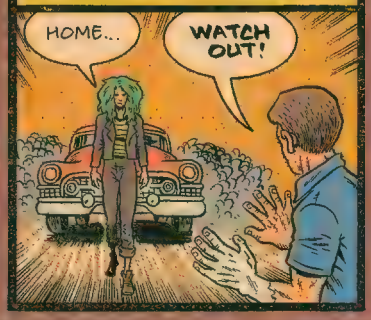


IN **MISSISSIPPI**, **ANNA MARIE** LEAVES HOME. SHE, TOO, IS A PUPPET UNDER A SPELL.

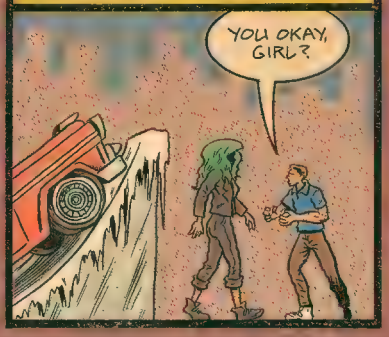
CYCLOPS AND **MARVEL GIRL** WERE JUST SUPPOSED TO BE ON VACATION.

IN THE **FLORIDA** PANHANDLE, THE FIRST LOT OF DAZED, SEDUCED MUTANTS BEGIN SHOWING UP TO BE WHISKED AWAY.

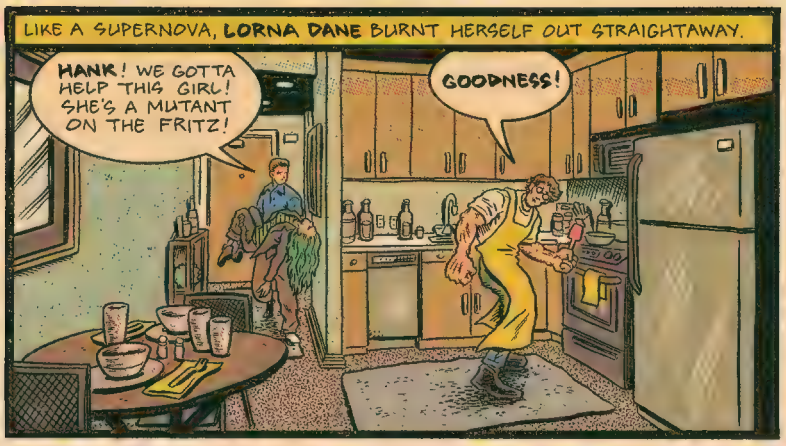
LORNA DANE'S MIND KEEPS SWIMMING WITH VISIONS OF THE **SAVAGE LAND**... OF **FAMILY**.



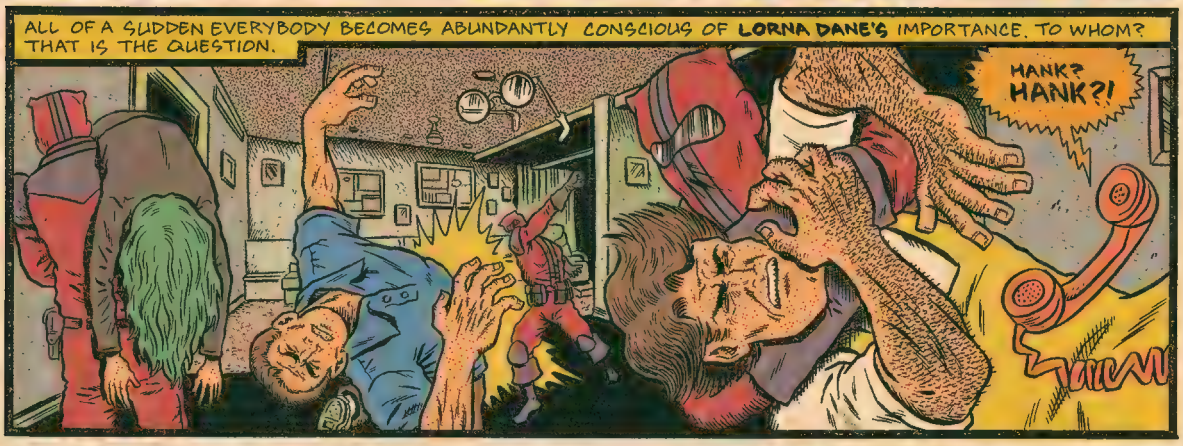
BOBBY DRAKE'S REFLEXES REMAIN SHARP...



...BUT PERHAPS **ICEMAN'S** INSTINCTS AREN'T SHARP ENOUGH...


LIKE A SUPERNOVA, LORNA DANE BURNT HERSELF OUT STRAIGHTAWAY.
HANK! WE GOTTA HELP THIS GIRL! SHE'S A MUTANT ON THE FRITZ!
GOODNESS!

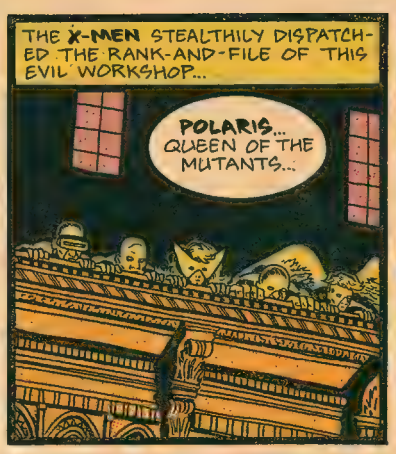
WEIGHING THEIR OPTIONS, HENRY McCOY SEEKS A SECOND OPINION.
SHE MAY BE AN ALPHA-LEVEL MUTANT, SCOTT.
OH, YEAH?
HEY!


ALL OF A SUDDEN EVERYBODY BECOMES ABUNDANTLY CONSCIOUS OF LORNA DANE'S IMPORTANCE. TO WHOM? THAT IS THE QUESTION.
HANK? HANK?!

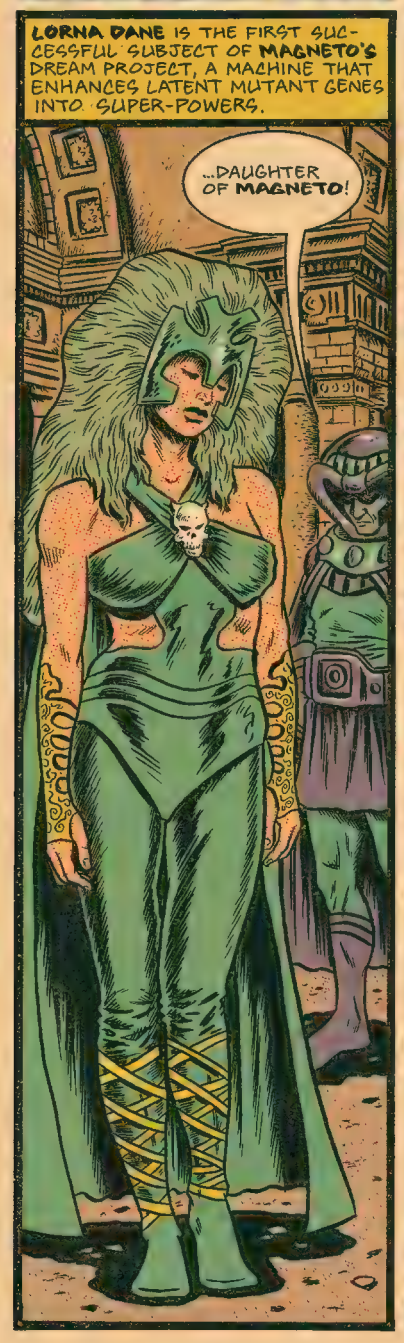
IT TAKES ABOUT TWO HOURS FOR THE BLACKBIRD JET TO ARRIVE IN SAN FRANCISCO FROM NEW YORK. THIS IS PRECISELY THE AMOUNT OF TIME IT TAKES FOR HENRY McCOY AND BOBBY DRAKE TO WAKE BACK UP...
...gone...

SHE'S GONE. YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.
SHE'S AS STRONG AS MAGNETO.

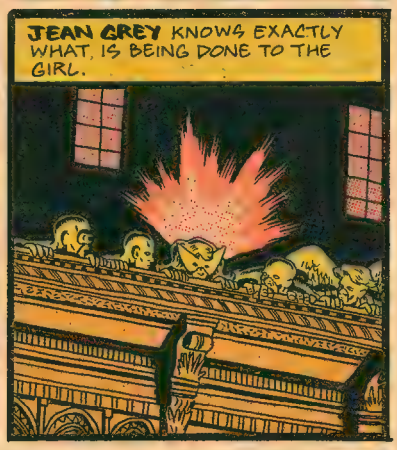
LORNA'S LOCATION BURNS WITH INCANDESCENT CLARITY.


THE X-MEN STEALTHILY DISPATCHED THE RANK-AND-FILE OF THIS EVIL WORKSHOP...
POLARIS... QUEEN OF THE MUTANTS...

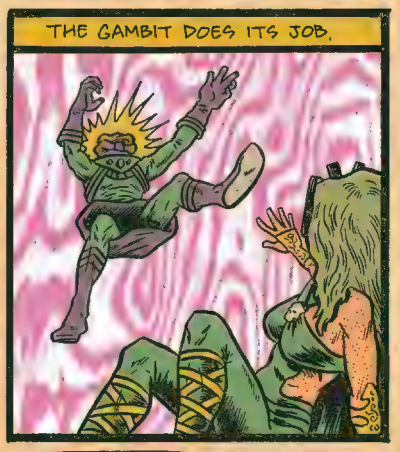
WHAT IS HE DOING TO LORNA?


LORNA DANE IS THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL SUBJECT OF MAGNETO'S DREAM PROJECT, A MACHINE THAT ENHANCES LATENT MUTANT GENES INTO SUPER-POWERS.
...DAUGHTER OF MAGNETO!

MESMERO'S BEEN ALTERING DANE'S REALITY SINCE SAN FRANCISCO.
YOU WILL BE WITH FATHER IN THE SAVAGE LAND SOON.


JEAN GREY KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT IS BEING DONE TO THE GIRL.

JEAN MENTALLY PROJECTS A FIGURE FROM HER DREAMS TO DIRECTLY CONVINCE LORNA OF THE MANIPULATION TAKING PLACE...
DEEP WITHIN YOUR SOUL YOU KNOW WHAT IS TRUE.
POLARIS?


THE GAMBIT DOES ITS JOB.

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD DO THAT, JEAN.
NEITHER DID I.
LORNA...

DAYS LATER, A FEARFUL AND ANXIOUS **SCOTT SUMMERS** REVEALS A REKINDLED RELATIONSHIP THAT HE'S KEPT PRIVATE FROM THE GROUP: HIS YOUNGER BROTHER, **ALEX**.

HIS COLLEGE GRADUATION IS TODAY AND HE'S NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.

IS HE A MUTANT, **SCOTT**? WE CAN USE **CEREBRO**!

I... I'M NOT SURE...

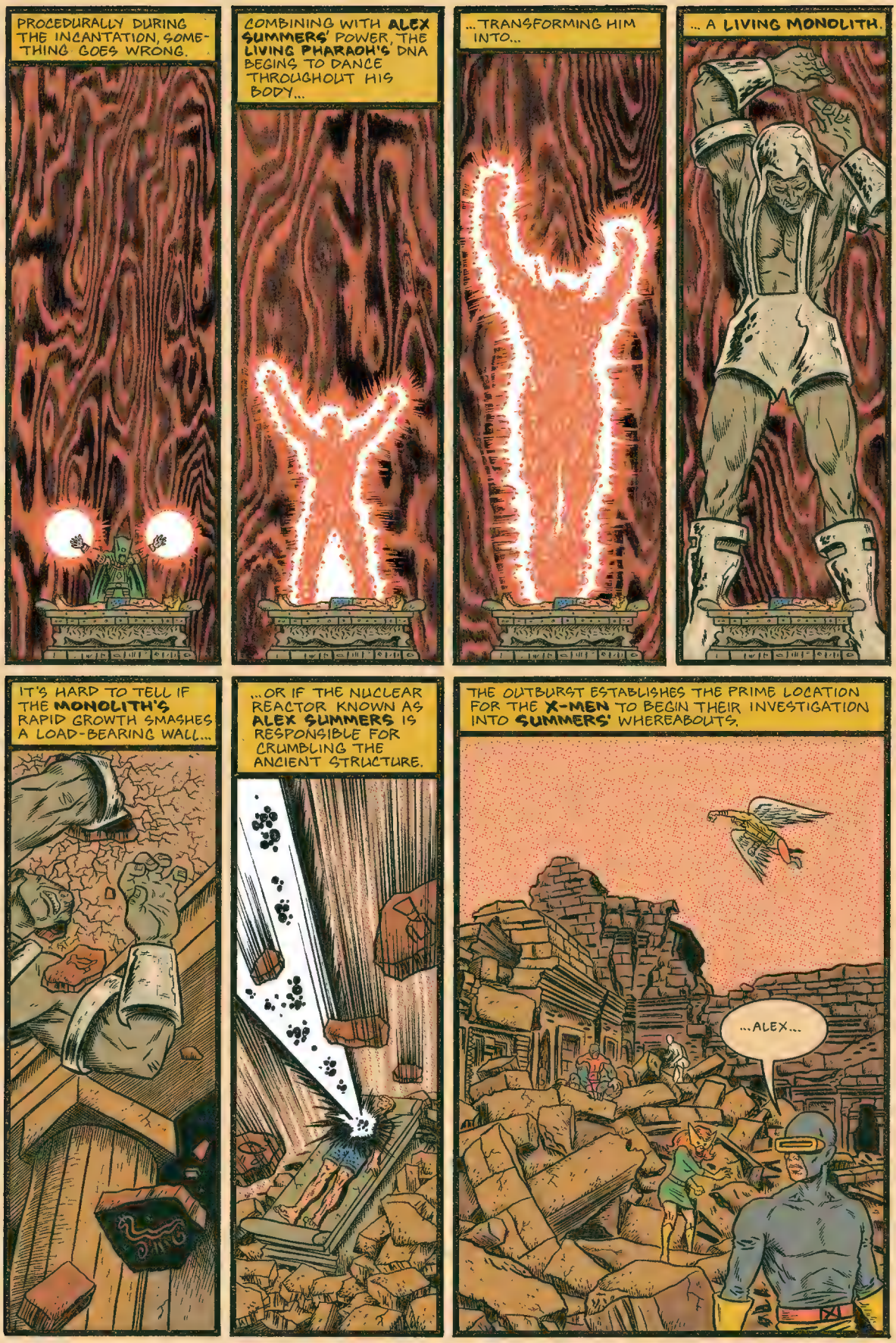
THERE'S A 50/50 SHOT GIVEN **SCOTT'S** GENETIC MAKEUP.

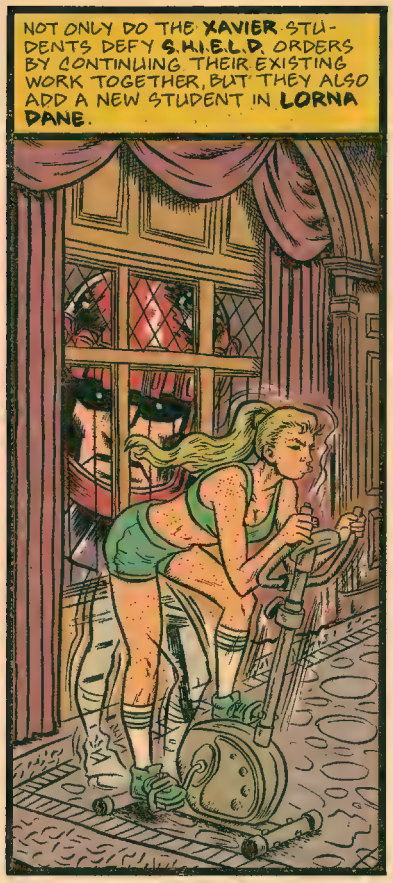
ON IT!

KNOWLEDGE OF THE **PHOENIX** IS NOT THE MONOPOLY OF INTERGALACTIC BEINGS. ANCIENT EARTHLY CIVILIZATIONS FORETOLD OF HER IMMENSE POWER.

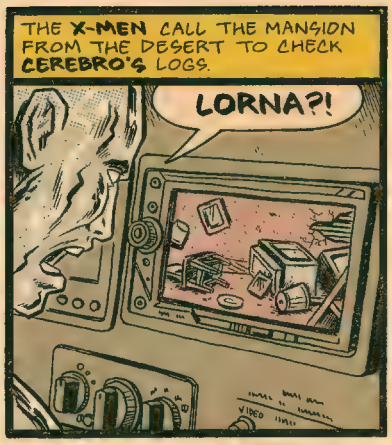
THE **EGYPTIANS** BELIEVED THAT **PHARAOHS** COULD INFLUENCE THE **PHOENIX FORCE**.

DEEP WITHIN THE **TEMPLE OF HORUS** IN **EDFU, EGYPT**. THE **LIVING PHARAOH** IS PERFORMING A SACRIFICIAL RITUAL TO SEDUCE THE GREAT **PHOENIX**. BY UNTAPPING THE MUTANT ENERGY OF **ALEX SUMMERS**, THE **PHARAOH** CALLS TO HER.

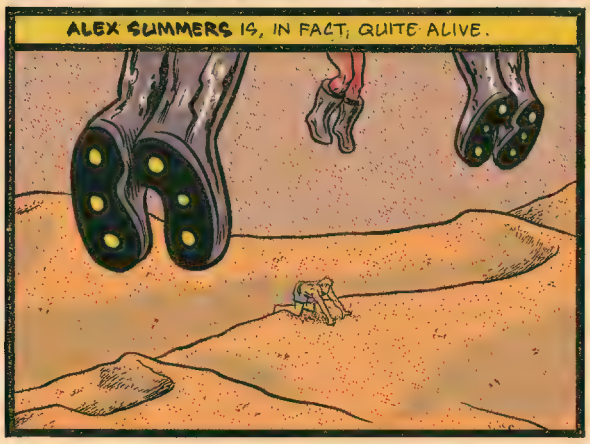

PROCEDURALLY DURING THE INCANTATION, SOMETHING GOES WRONG.
COMBINING WITH ALEX SUMMERS' POWER, THE LIVING PHARAOH'S DNA BEGINS TO DANCE THROUGHOUT HIS BODY...
...TRANSFORMING HIM INTO...
... A LIVING MONOLITH.
IT'S HARD TO TELL IF THE MONOLITH'S RAPID GROWTH SMASHES A LOAD-BEARING WALL...
...OR IF THE NUCLEAR REACTOR KNOWN AS ALEX SUMMERS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CRUMBLING THE ANCIENT STRUCTURE.
THE OUTBURST ESTABLISHES THE PRIME LOCATION FOR THE X-MEN TO BEGIN THEIR INVESTIGATION INTO SUMMERS' WHEREABOUTS.
...ALEX...

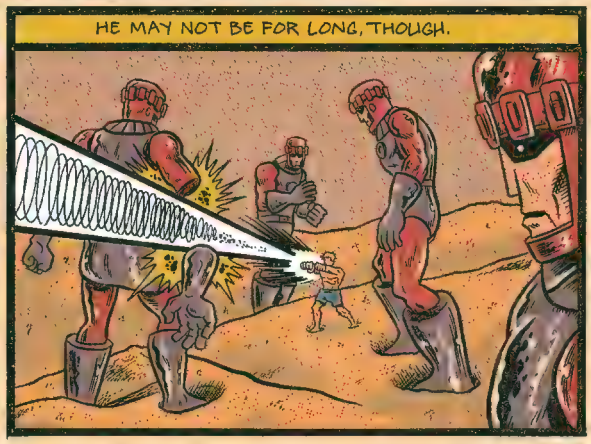

NOT ONLY DO THE **XAVIER** STUDENTS DEFY **S.H.I.E.L.D.** ORDERS BY CONTINUING THEIR EXISTING WORK TOGETHER, BUT THEY ALSO ADD A NEW STUDENT IN **LORNA DANE**.

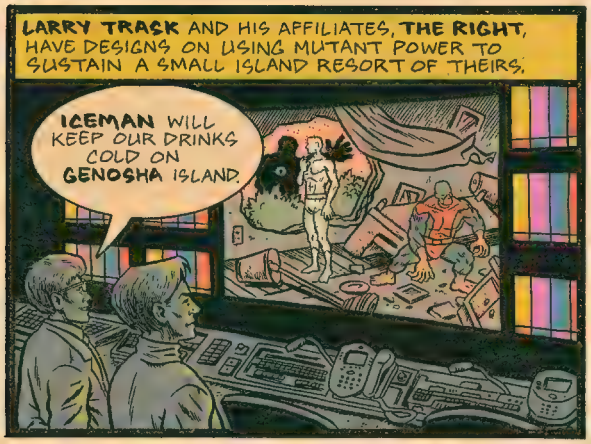
SHE'S TOO INEXPERIENCED TO BE ON THE FRONTLINES WITH THE **X-MEN** IN **EGYPT**. AT FIRST SHE THINKS THIS IS SIMPLY AN ADMINISTERED TEST FROM HER TEACHERS. IT IS NOT.

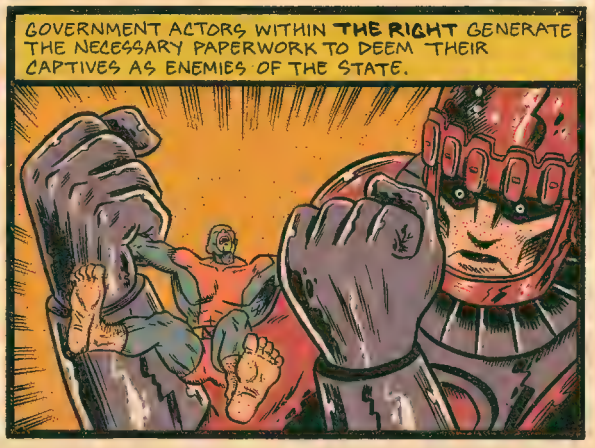

THE **X-MEN** CALL THE MANSION FROM THE DESERT TO CHECK **CEREBRO'S** LOGS.
LORNA?!

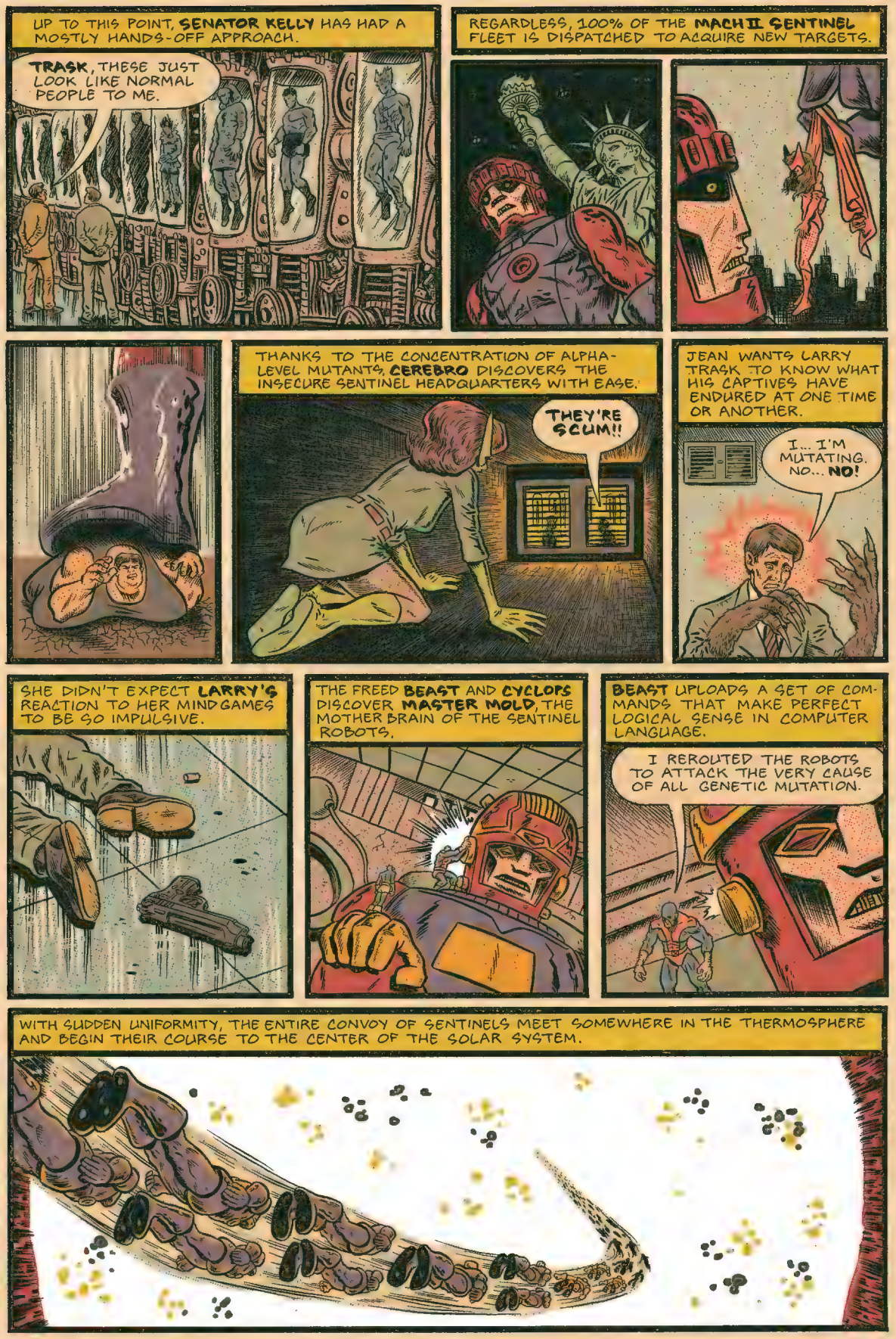
BOBBY, HANK, TAKE THE **BLACKBIRD** HOME AND REPORT BACK.
I CAN'T LEAVE HERE UNTIL I FIND MY BROTHER.


ALEX SUMMERS IS, IN FACT, QUITE ALIVE.

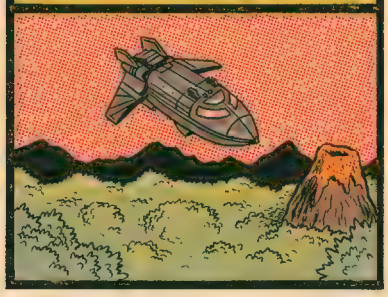

HE MAY NOT BE FOR LONG, THOUGH.


LARRY TRACK AND HIS AFFILIATES, **THE RIGHT**, HAVE DESIGNS ON USING MUTANT POWER TO SUSTAIN A SMALL ISLAND RESORT OF THEIRS.
ICEMAN WILL KEEP OUR DRINKS COLD ON **GENOSHA** ISLAND.


GOVERNMENT ACTORS WITHIN **THE RIGHT** GENERATE THE NECESSARY PAPERWORK TO DEEM THEIR CAPTIVES AS ENEMIES OF THE STATE.


UP TO THIS POINT, SENATOR KELLY HAS HAD A MOSTLY HANDS-OFF APPROACH.
TRASK, THESE JUST LOOK LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE TO ME.
REGARDLESS, 100% OF THE MACH II SENTINEL FLEET IS DISPATCHED TO ACQUIRE NEW TARGETS.
THANKS TO THE CONCENTRATION OF ALPHA-LEVEL MUTANTS, CEREBRO DISCOVERS THE INSECURE SENTINEL HEADQUARTERS WITH EASE.
THEY'RE SCUM!!
JEAN WANTS LARRY TRASK TO KNOW WHAT HIS CAPTIVES HAVE ENDURED AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER.
I... I'M MUTATING. NO... NO!
SHE DIDN'T EXPECT LARRY'S REACTION TO HER MIND GAMES TO BE SO IMPULSIVE.
THE FREED BEAST AND CYCLOPS DISCOVER MASTER MOLD, THE MOTHER BRAIN OF THE SENTINEL ROBOTS.
BEAST UPLOADS A SET OF COMMANDS THAT MAKE PERFECT LOGICAL SENSE IN COMPUTER LANGUAGE.
I REROUTED THE ROBOTS TO ATTACK THE VERY CAUSE OF ALL GENETIC MUTATION.
WITH SUDDEN UNIFORMITY, THE ENTIRE CONVOY OF SENTINELS MEET SOMEWHERE IN THE THERMOSPHERE AND BEGIN THEIR COURSE TO THE CENTER OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM.

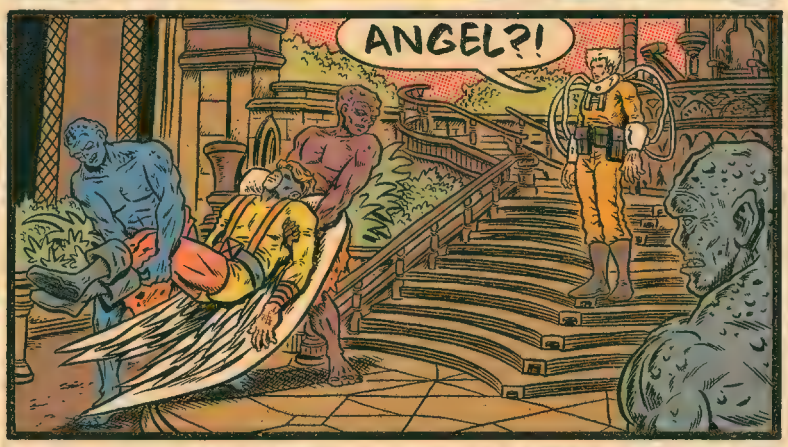
THE **X-MEN** DISCOVER THAT BEFORE THWARTING THE SENTINELS, THE ROBOTS WERE ON THEIR WAY TO THE **SAVAGE LAND** EN MASSE AFTER DETECTING A TITANIC SPIKE IN MUTANT ACTIVITY.

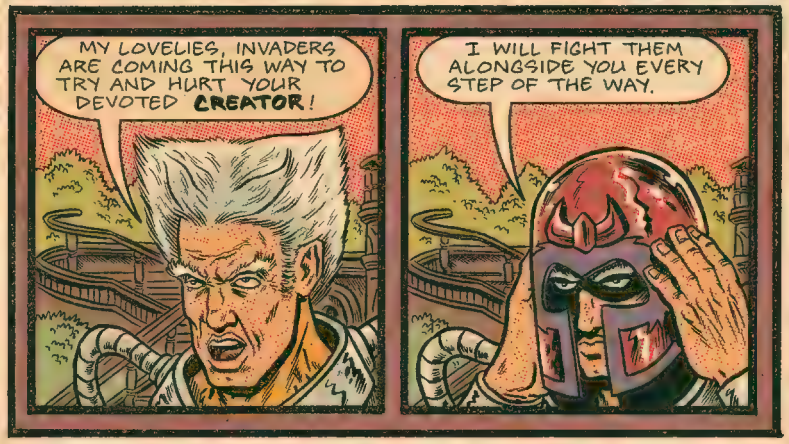


ANGEL WAS SIMPLY ON A RECONNAISSANCE MISSION BEFORE BEING INTERCEPTED BY THE HYPNOTIC PTERANO-MAN, **SAURON**.

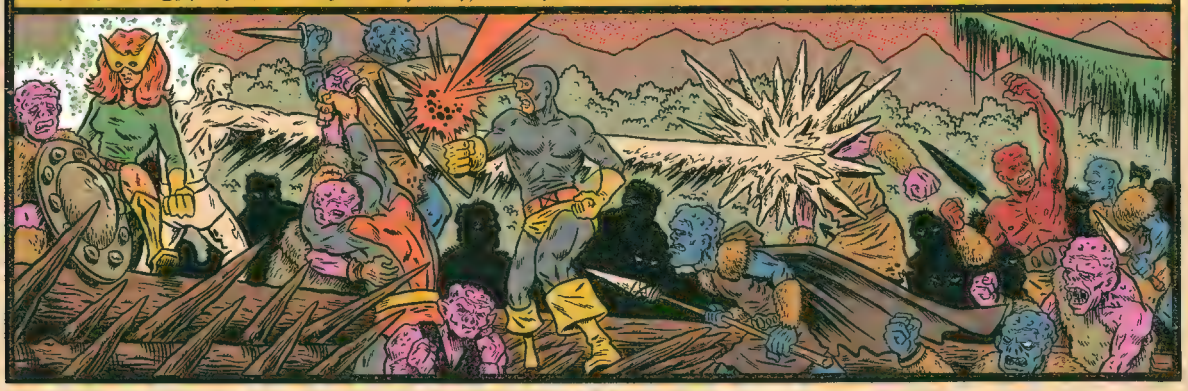
WARREN'S MISTAKE WAS TO STARE INTO HIS ADVERSARY'S EYES FOR TOO LONG.

THE FOLIAGE PROVIDED ENOUGH SHOCK-ABSORPTION TO KEEP **WORTHINGTON'S** HEART PUMPING, BUT THAT'S ABOUT IT.

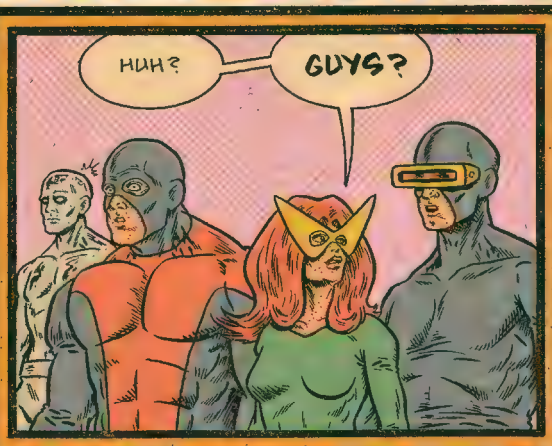




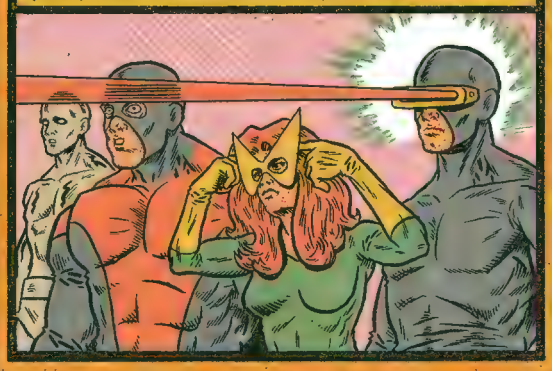
THE SPACECRAFT **MAGNETO** STOLE FROM **THE STRANGER'S** HOMEWORLD CONTAINED KEY TECHNOLOGY NEEDED TO COMPLETE HIS LONG-SOUGHT-AFTER MUTANT GENE INCUBATOR.



LORELEI IS HIS PRIZED CREATION, AND HER DULCET TONES ARE FAR MORE ENTRANCING THAN WHAT **MASTERMIND** OR **MESMERO** COULD EVER HOPE TO CONJUR UP.

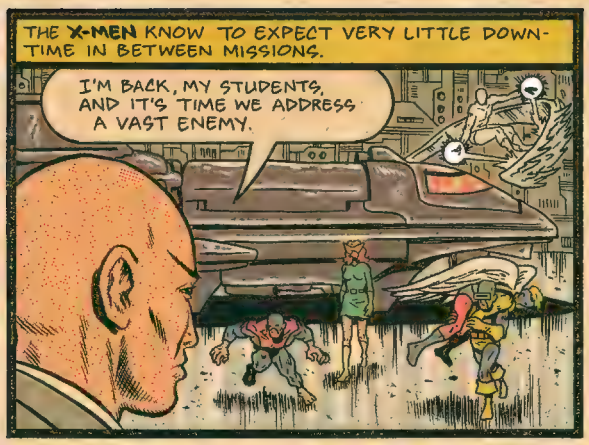


MARVEL GIRL HAS HER OWN WAY OF HOLDING SWAY OVER HER COMRADES-IN-ARMS.



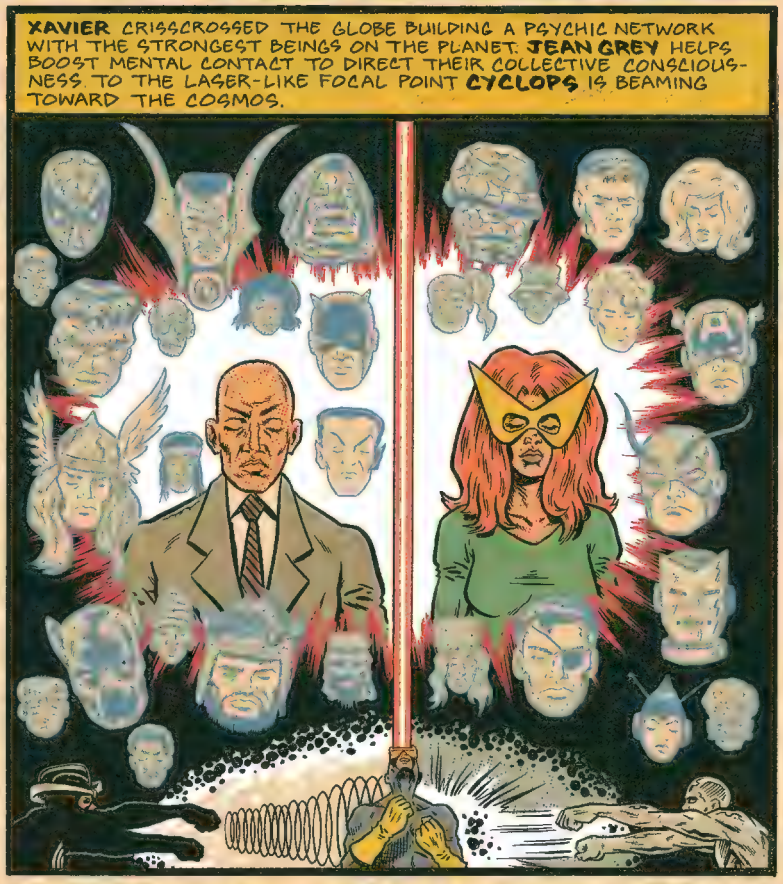
AFTER THE MAELSTROM, **JEAN** ISN'T QUITE SURE IF THE CITADEL WAS BROUGHT DOWN ON TOP OF **MAGNETO'S** HEAD OR NOT.

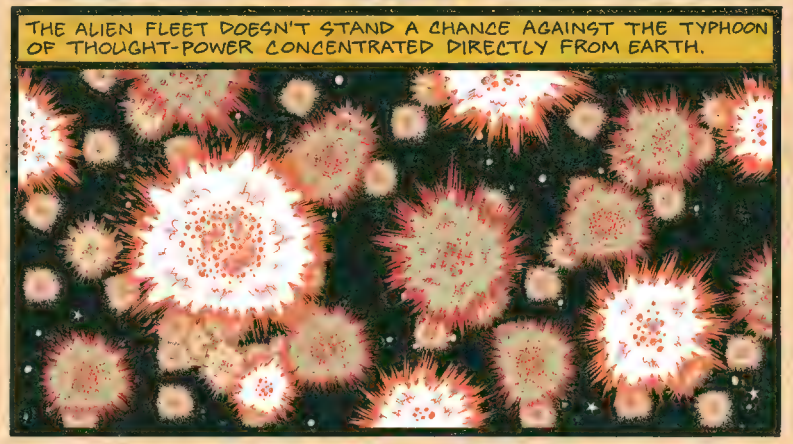
THE FACT REMAINS, WHENEVER OUTWORLDERS ENTER THE **SAVAGE LAND**, DEATH AND DESTRUCTION FOLLOW.

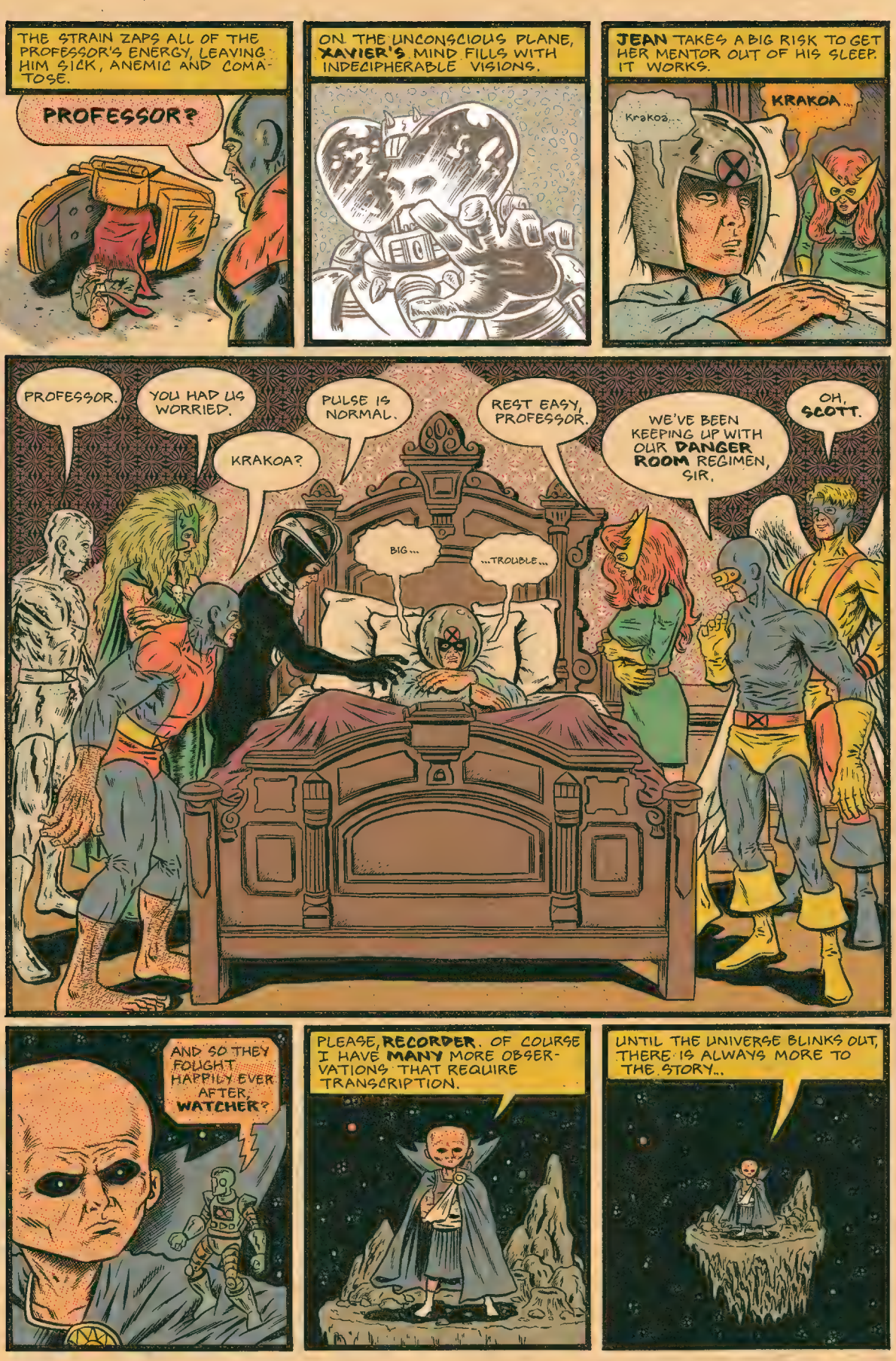

THE X-MEN KNOW TO EXPECT VERY LITTLE DOWN-TIME IN BETWEEN MISSIONS.
I'M BACK, MY STUDENTS, AND IT'S TIME WE ADDRESS A VAST ENEMY.

"MUTANT MASTER'S ARMADA SHOWS NO EVIDENCE OF BACKING DOWN. IN FACT, THEY'RE NOW CLOSE ENOUGH TO EARTH THAT WE CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT."

PROFESSOR X DEDICATED MANY MONTHS TO A PLAN. FORGE FABRICATED A SUIT FOR ALEX SUMMERS TO HARNESS ALL HIS ENERGY SO IT CAN BE USED TO SUPERCHARGE HIS BROTHER CYCLOPS' OPTIC BLAST. ICE-MAN HELPS REGULATE SCOTT SUMMERS' BLISTERING BODY TEMPERATURE.


XAVIER CRISSCROSSED THE GLOBE BUILDING A PSYCHIC NETWORK WITH THE STRONGEST BEINGS ON THE PLANET. JEAN GREY HELPS BOOST MENTAL CONTACT TO DIRECT THEIR COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS TO THE LASER-LIKE FOCAL POINT CYCLOPS IS BEAMING TOWARD THE COSMOS.


THE ALIEN FLEET DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THE TYPHOON OF THOUGHT-POWER CONCENTRATED DIRECTLY FROM EARTH.


THE STRAIN ZAPS ALL OF THE PROFESSOR'S ENERGY, LEAVING HIM SICK, ANEMIC AND COMATOSE.
PROFESSOR?
ON THE UNCONSCIOUS PLANE, XAVIER'S MIND FILLS WITH INDECIPHERABLE VISIONS.
JEAN TAKES A BIG RISK TO GET HER MENTOR OUT OF HIS SLEEP. IT WORKS.
Krakoa...
KRAKOA...
PROFESSOR.
YOU HAD US WORRIED.
KRAKOA?
PULSE IS NORMAL.
REST EASY, PROFESSOR.
WE'VE BEEN KEEPING UP WITH OUR DANGER ROOM REGIMEN, SIR.
OH, SCOTT.
BIG...
...TROUBLE...
AND SO THEY FOUGHT HAPPILY EVER AFTER, WATCHER?
PLEASE, RECORDER. OF COURSE I HAVE MANY MORE OBSERVATIONS THAT REQUIRE TRANSCRIPTION.
UNTIL THE UNIVERSE BLINKS OUT, THERE IS ALWAYS MORE TO THE STORY...

EPISODE 3

A
BLAST
FROM THE
PAST

FOR SOME REASON, **CHARLES XAVIER** AND HIS STUDENTS AT THE **SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS** HAVEN'T BEEN ON CAMPUS FOR WEEKS. A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY IS SEIZED UPON.

ROGER THAT, **BLACK KING**...

... ALL OF THE COMMON AREAS ARE TAPPED...

CHECK. THE DATA-LOGGER IS INSTALLED ON **CEREBRO**.

YES, SIR. DEPLOYING **DANGER ROOM** MONITORS NOW.

THEN, AFTER 27 MONTHS OF DARKNESS, THE MOTION DETECTORS WITHIN THE SPY EQUIPMENT ARE TRIGGERED INTO A LUMINESCENT NARROWCAST BEING RECORDED A FEW DOZEN MILES AWAY.

YOUR "EXPERTISE" **FAILED**! THESE ARE **NOT** THE **X-MEN**!

I--I DON'T UNDERSTAND. I SPENT SOME TIME IN THAT HOUSE BEFORE.

DON'T YOU DOLTS RECOGNIZE THE BALD CHAP AND THE BLOKE WITH THE SUNGLASSES?

"HE THAT CAN HAVE **PATIENCE** CAN HAVE WHAT HE WILL." **BEN FRANKLIN**

EMMA FROST, **WHITE QUEEN**

MASTERMIND, PROBATIONARY ALLY

HARRY LELAND, **BLACK BISHOP**

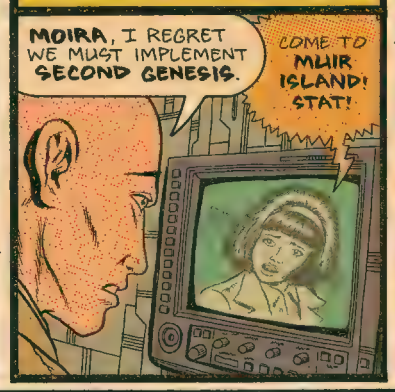
DONALD PIERCE, **WHITE BISHOP**

SEBASTIAN SHAW, **BLACK KING**

THOSE MANY MONTHS AGO, THE **X-MEN** LANDED ON **KRAKOA** ISLAND EXPECTING TO DISCOVER A WIDE-SPREAD MUTANT CIVILIZATION, ACCORDING TO DATA IN THE **CEREBRO** COMPUTER.

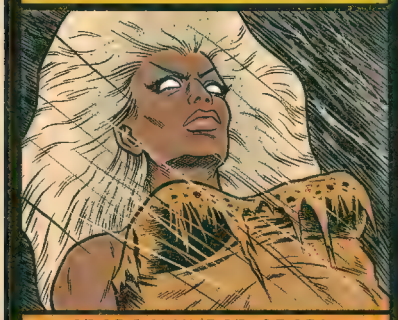
CYCLOPS WAKES UP BACK HOME IN THE HANGAR BAY OF THE **XAVIER** MANSION.

AFTER **XAVIER** EXITS THE CONFUSED MIND OF **CYCLOPS**.



BANSHEE IS THE FIRST RECRUIT FOR THE RESCUE MISSION.

AFRICA. SHE BROUGHT CROP-BEARING RAINS TO HER NEIGHBORS. THEY WORSHIP HER LIKE A GOD.

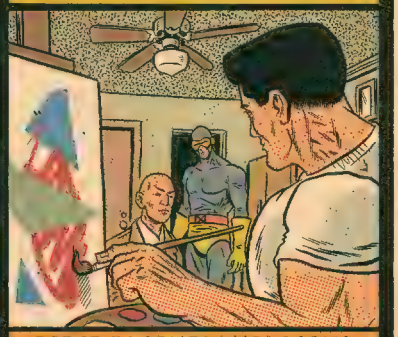


ORORO MUNROE, STORM

GERMANY. THE CIRCUS ACROBAT WAS HARD TO PIN DOWN. TELE-PORTATION IS HIS SAFETY MECHANISM.

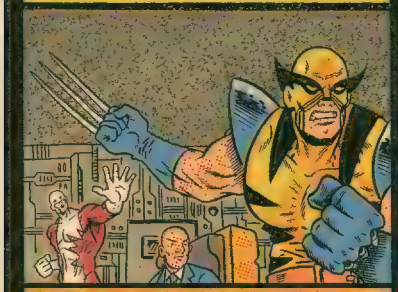
KURT WAGNER, NIGHTCRAWLER

RUSSIA. THE IMMENSE STRENGTH OF HIS METALLIC FORM IS A BIG HELP ON THE FAMILY FARM.



PETER RASPUTIN, COLOSSUS

CANADA. HE'S THE CROWN JEWEL OF THEIR MILITARY BUDGET. A CANTANKEROUS, NEARLY INDESTRUCTIBLE LITTLE MAN.

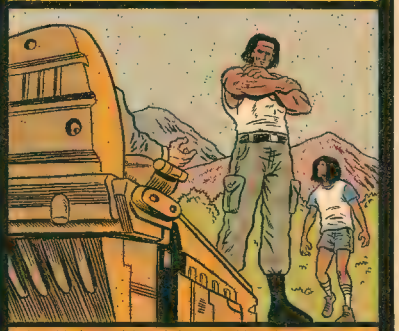


WEAPON X, WOLVERINE

JAPAN. HE AGREES TO HELP OUT THIS ONCE BECAUSE HE'D LIKE TO MEET **MARVEL GIRL**.

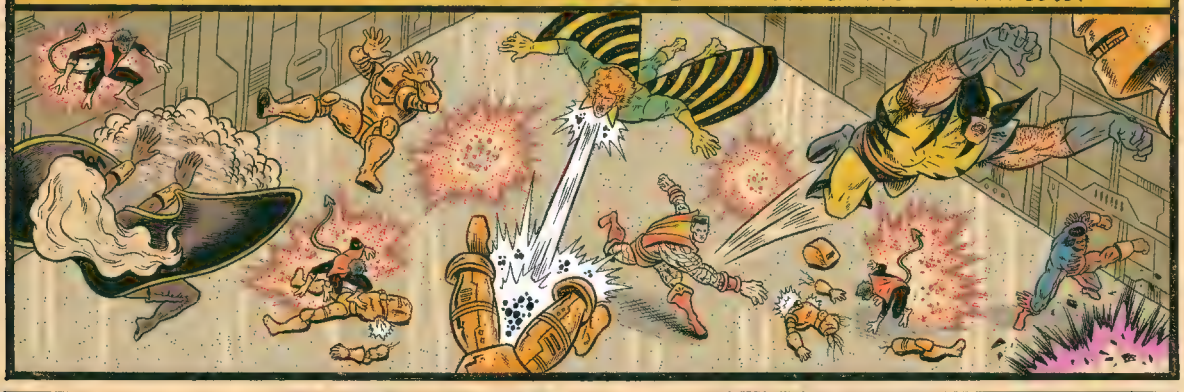
SHIRO YOSHIDA, SUNFIRE

USA. STRONG AS AN OX. FAST AS A HORSE. STUBBORN AS A MULE.



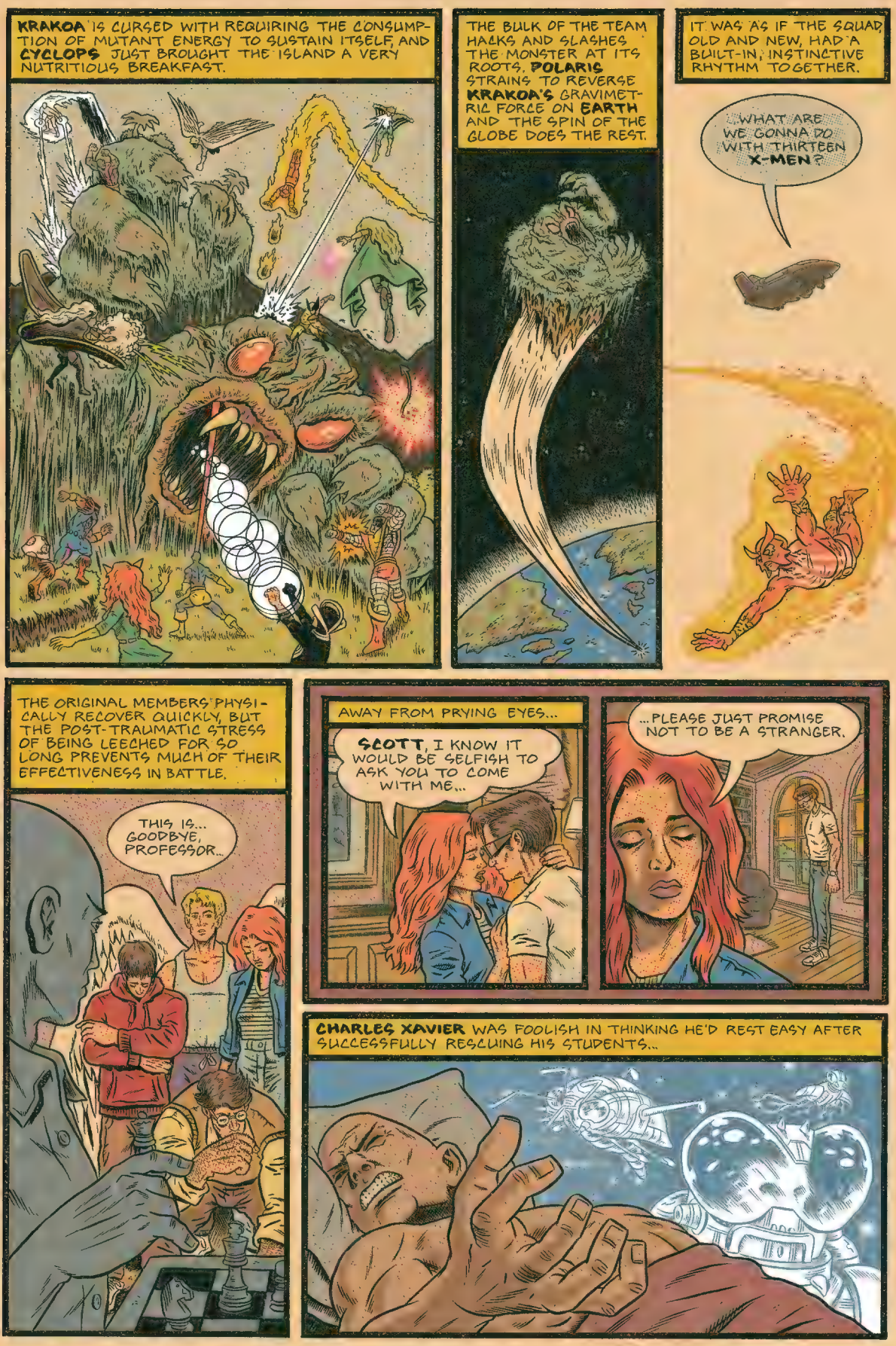
JOHN PROUDSTAR, THUNDERBIRD

SOMETHING IS CLOAKING **KRAKOA'S** LOCATION BUT **CHARLES** KNOWS IT'S A GIMMICK. ISLANDS DON'T JUST UP AND VANISH, AFTER ALL. HIS NEW MUTANTS ATTEMPT TO COHERE AS A TEAM DURING THIS LULL.



PUSHING **CEREBRO** TO ITS LIMITS, **XAVIER** CAN FAINTLY FEEL **JEAN GREY** RESIST THE OUTSIDE FORCES MANIPULATING HER INTO HIDING THE ISLAND'S COORDINATES. THIS MOMENTARY CHANCE IS ALL **CYCLOPS** AND HIS GREENHORNS NEEDED. THEY ARRIVE, FIGHTING THROUGH KILLER VENUS FLYTRAPS AND MURDEROUS THICKETS TO DISCOVER...

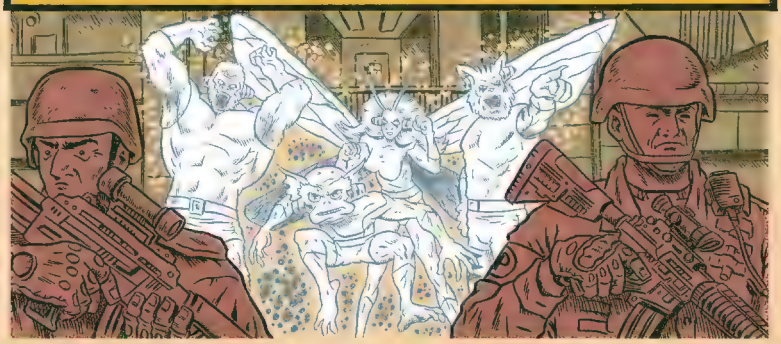
THERE BEGAN A DEBATE ABOUT THE BIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF CUTTING THE **X-MEN** DOWN. **WOLVERINE** DOESN'T MAKE DECISIONS BY COMMITTEE.


KRAKOA IS CURSED WITH REQUIRING THE CONSUMPTION OF MUTANT ENERGY TO SUSTAIN ITSELF, AND CYCLOPS JUST BROUGHT THE ISLAND A VERY NUTRITIOUS BREAKFAST.
THE BULK OF THE TEAM HACKS AND SLASHES THE MONSTER AT ITS ROOTS. POLARIS STRAINS TO REVERSE KRAKOA'S GRAVIMETRIC FORCE ON EARTH AND THE SPIN OF THE GLOBE DOES THE REST.
IT WAS AS IF THE SQUAD, OLD AND NEW, HAD A BUILT-IN, INSTINCTIVE RHYTHM TOGETHER.
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO WITH THIRTEEN X-MEN?
THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS PHYSICALLY RECOVER QUICKLY, BUT THE POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS OF BEING LEECHED FOR SO LONG PREVENTS MUCH OF THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IN BATTLE.
THIS IS... GOODBYE, PROFESSOR...
AWAY FROM PRYING EYES...
SCOTT, I KNOW IT WOULD BE SELFISH TO ASK YOU TO COME WITH ME...
...PLEASE JUST PROMISE NOT TO BE A STRANGER.
CHARLES XAVIER WAS FOOLISH IN THINKING HE'D REST EASY AFTER SUCCESSFULLY RESCUING HIS STUDENTS...

INEVITABLY, THE CLOSE CALLS AND NEAR MISSES RUN DRY.

I MAY KNOW MORE ABOUT THE HUMAN PSYCHE THAN ANYONE ELSE ON EARTH. I DON'T THINK MY MIND COULD EVER HANDLE A LOSS LIKE THIS AGAIN.

XAVIER REFLECTS ON PERHAPS RUSHING HIS NEW GROUP OUT TOO HASTILY UPON RECEIVING WORD THAT **VALHALLA MISSILE BASE** WAS BREACHED BY THE **ANI-MEN** THROUGH SOME SORT OF HIDDEN TELEPORTATION DEVICE.

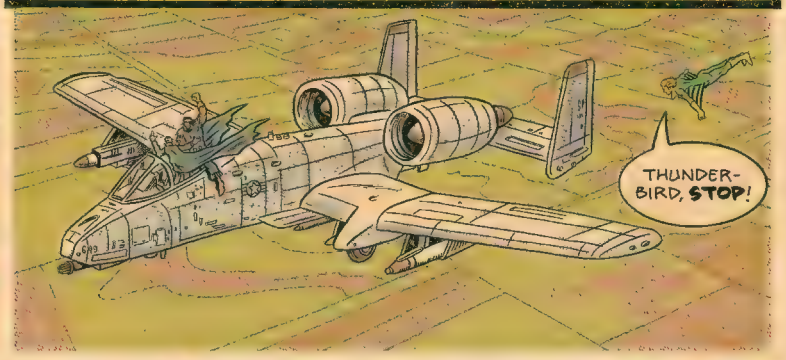


THE REALITY IS THAT THE NATION'S NUCLEAR ARSENAL GETTING COMPROMISED IN THIS MANNER REQUIRED FAST, DECISIVE ACTION.

THE **X-MEN** DISCOVER **COUNT NEFARIA** IS THE SPEARHEAD OF THIS TERRORISM. THE SCHEME WAS YEARS IN THE MAKING.

C'MERE, SUCKER!

WHEN IT WAS CLEAR HIS MISSION FAILED, **NEFARIA** MADE IT WITHIN A HAIR'S BREADTH OF EVADING CAPTURE.



CHARLES XAVIER FELT THE LOSS IMMEDIATELY ALL THE WAY BACK IN **WESTCHESTER COUNTY**.

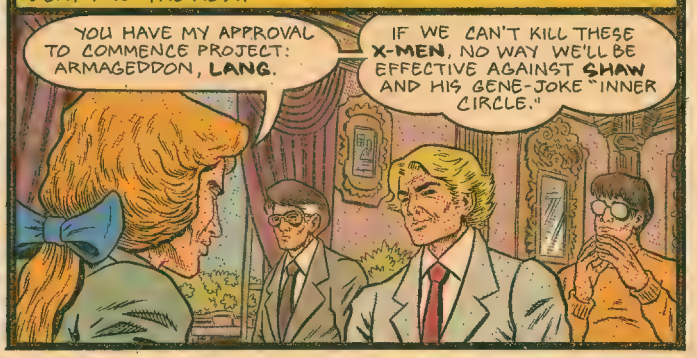
HIS NAME WAS **CORPORAL JOHN PROUDSTAR**. THE **APACHE** TRIBESMAN SERVED WITH SEVERAL OF THE FALLEN SOLDIERS FROM THE MISSILE BASE. AS **THUNDERBIRD**, HE DIED AN **X-MAN**.

XAVIER GIVES THE TEAM PLENTY OF SPACE TO PROCESS THEIR GRIEF HOWEVER THEY SEE FIT.

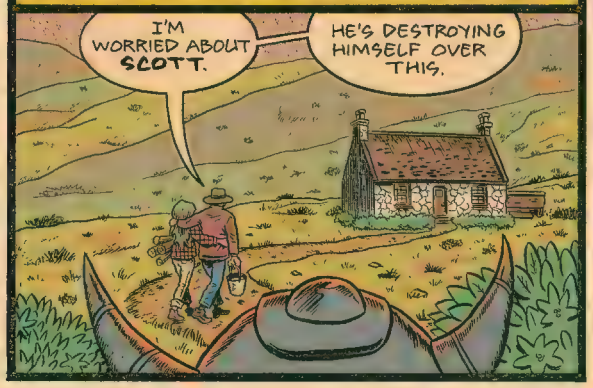
THE **HELLFIRE CLUB'S** INNER CIRCLE CONTINUES TO OBSERVE...

DONALD PIERCE IS THE ONLY NON-MUTANT OF THIS LAVISH SECRET ORDER, BUT HE MAY INCONSPICUOUSLY BE THE MOST POWERFUL.

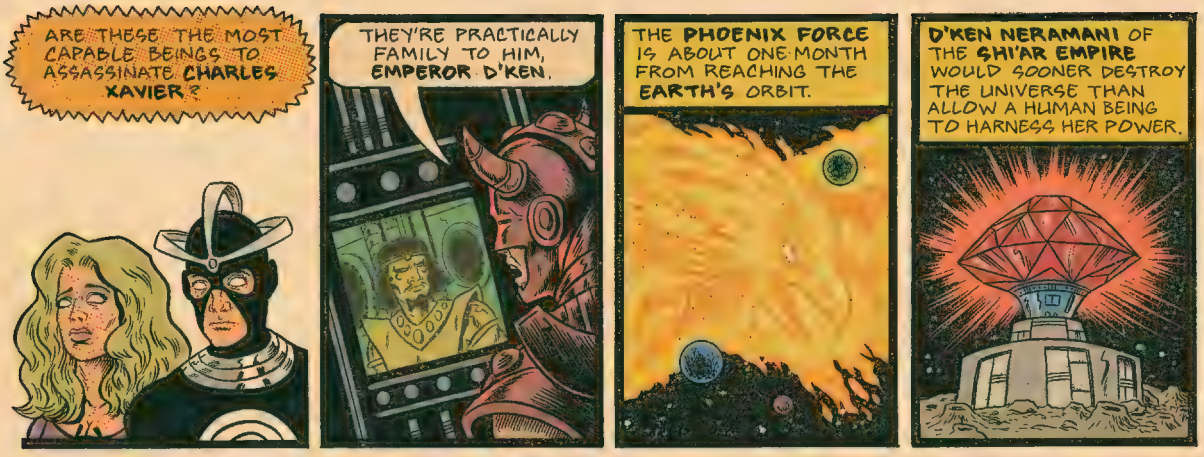
PIERCE FILTERS HIS MONEY AND INFLUENCE FROM THE **HELLFIRE CLUB** INTO AN EVEN MORE CLANDESTINE ORGANIZATION CALLED **THE RIGHT**. THEIR GOAL: SLAVERY TO "USEFUL" MUTANTS, DEATH TO THE REST.

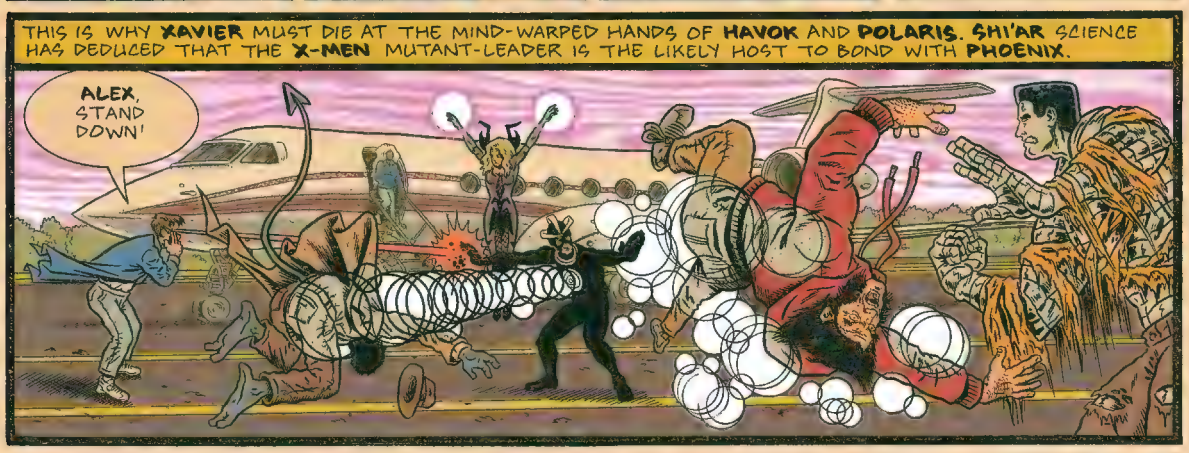


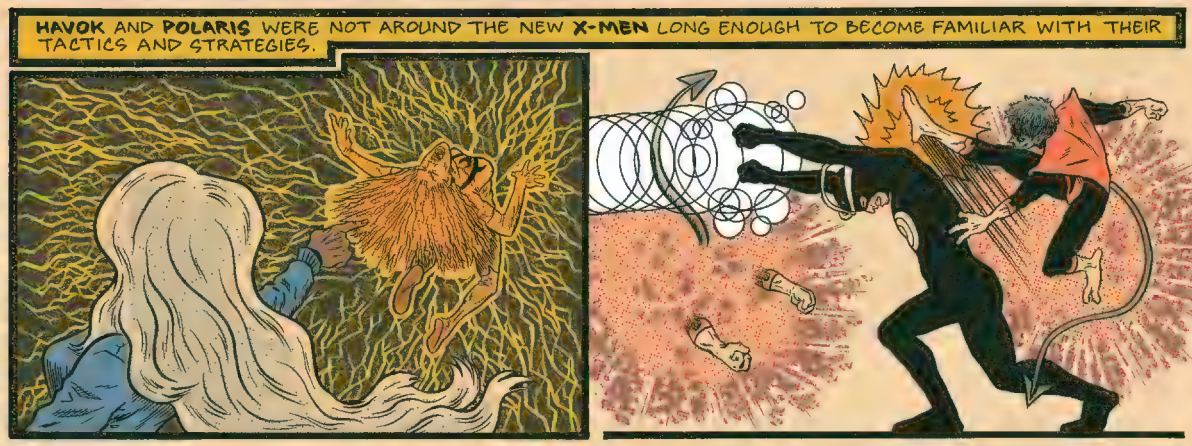
ALEX SUMMERS AND **LORNA DANE** ARE THE LAST TO HEAR ABOUT THE TRAGEDY OF **THUNDERBIRD**.

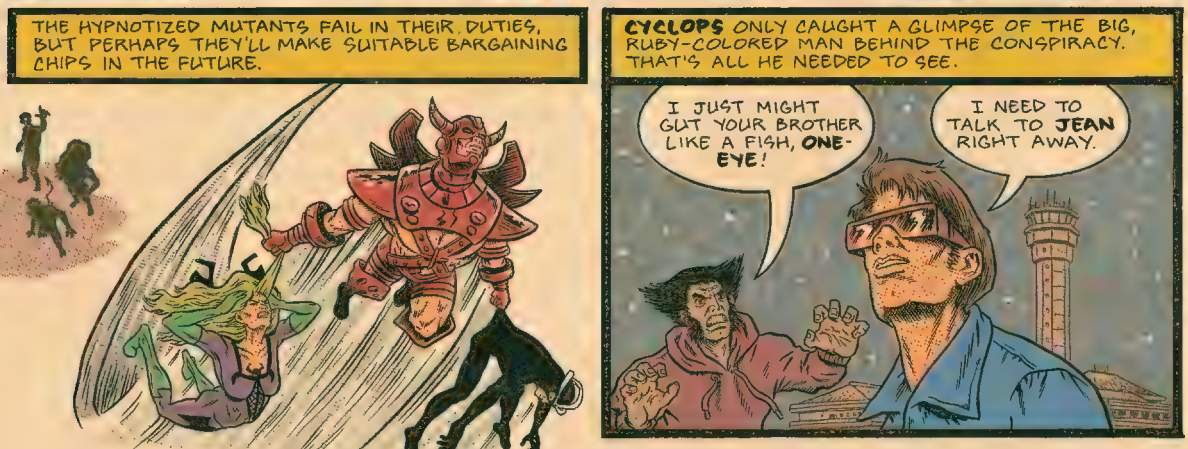


THE COUPLE DOES WELL IN THEIR RECUPERATION WHILE OFF THE GRID... UNTIL A NIGHTMARE FROM **LORNA'S** PAST SOMEHOW BECOMES REAL.


ARE THESE THE MOST CAPABLE BEINGS TO ASSASSINATE CHARLES XAVIER?
THEY'RE PRACTICALLY FAMILY TO HIM, EMPEROR D'KEN.
THE PHOENIX FORCE IS ABOUT ONE MONTH FROM REACHING THE EARTH'S ORBIT.
D'KEN NERAMANI OF THE SHI'AR EMPIRE WOULD SOONER DESTROY THE UNIVERSE THAN ALLOW A HUMAN BEING TO HARNESS HER POWER.


THIS IS WHY XAVIER MUST DIE AT THE MIND-WARPED HANDS OF HAVOK AND POLARIS. SHI'AR SCIENCE HAS DEDUCED THAT THE X-MEN MUTANT-LEADER IS THE LIKELY HOST TO BOND WITH PHOENIX.
ALEX, STAND DOWN!


HAVOK AND POLARIS WERE NOT AROUND THE NEW X-MEN LONG ENOUGH TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THEIR TACTICS AND STRATEGIES.


THE HYPNOTIZED MUTANTS FAIL IN THEIR DUTIES, BUT PERHAPS THEY'LL MAKE SUITABLE BARGAINING CHIPS IN THE FUTURE.
CYCLOPS ONLY CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF THE BIG, RUBY-COLORED MAN BEHIND THE CONSPIRACY. THAT'S ALL HE NEEDED TO SEE.
I JUST MIGHT GUT YOUR BROTHER LIKE A FISH, ONE-EYE!
I NEED TO TALK TO JEAN RIGHT AWAY.

YES, EVEN SUPERHUMAN MUTANTS GET INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT, WHEN POSSIBLE.

..BAH!

HUMBUG?

HAHA! GOOD ONE, SEAN!

I DON'T UNDER-STAND THE JOKE?

THE TRIP TO THE CITY DOES HAVE A MORE SPECIFIC PURPOSE; THOUGH.

I--I... ARE YOU SURE, SCOTT?

JEAN, WE FOUGHT AN ENEMY STRAIGHT FROM YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS PROJECTIONS...

OF COURSE, TROUBLE, FOR THE X-MEN, IS OFTEN AROUND THE CORNER AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE.

IT TAKES MINUTES FOR JEAN GREY, BANSHEE, AND WOLVERINE TO DISAPPEAR. THE REMAINING X-MEN RACE HOME LOOKING FOR CHARLES XAVIER IN HOPES OF PINPOINTING THEIR PRECISE LOCATION FOR EXTRICATION.

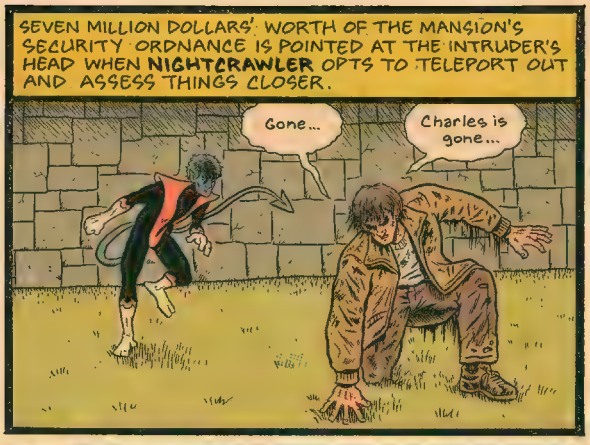
STILL NO ANSWER. CEREBRO JUST ISN'T AS EFFECTIVE WITHOUT HIS MIND TO DIRECT ITS FOCUS...

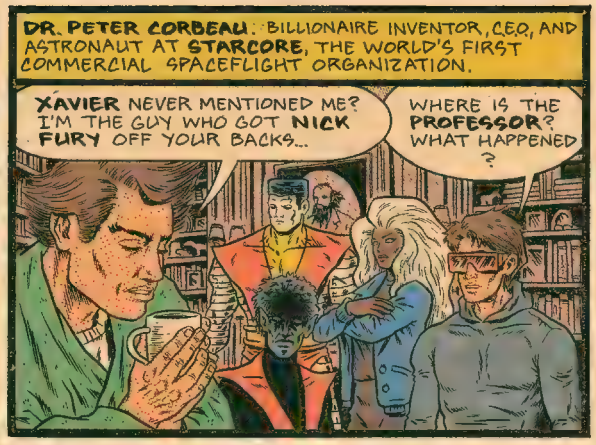
E-EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!!

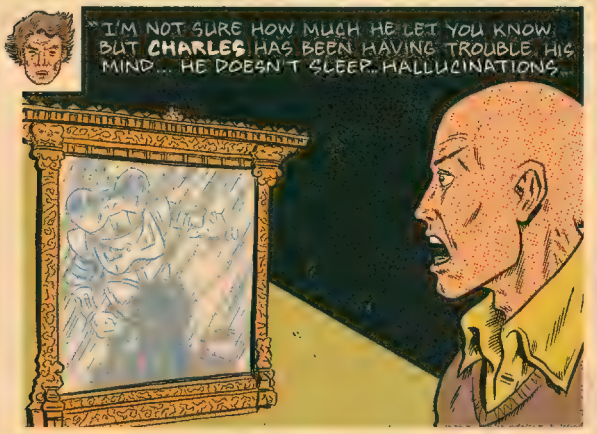
THE PERIMETER HAS BEEN BREACHED!

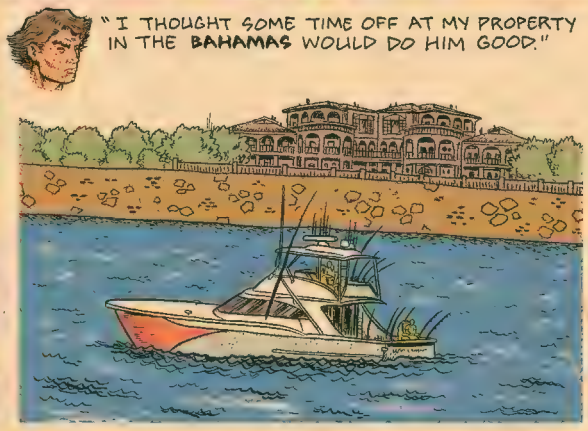
MORE ROBOTS?

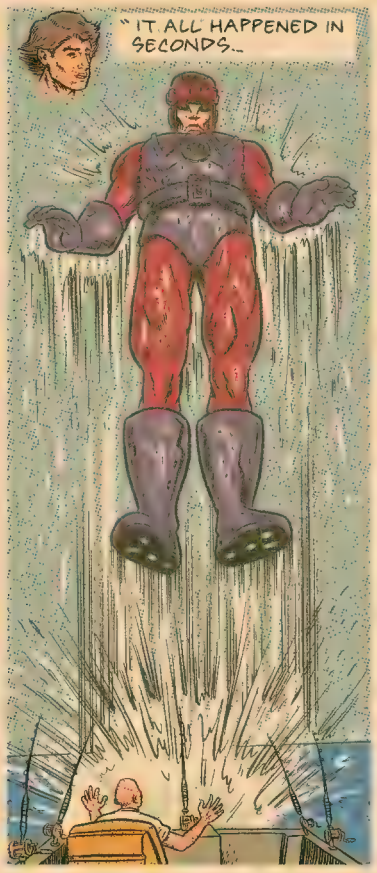
NO... IT'S A MAN.

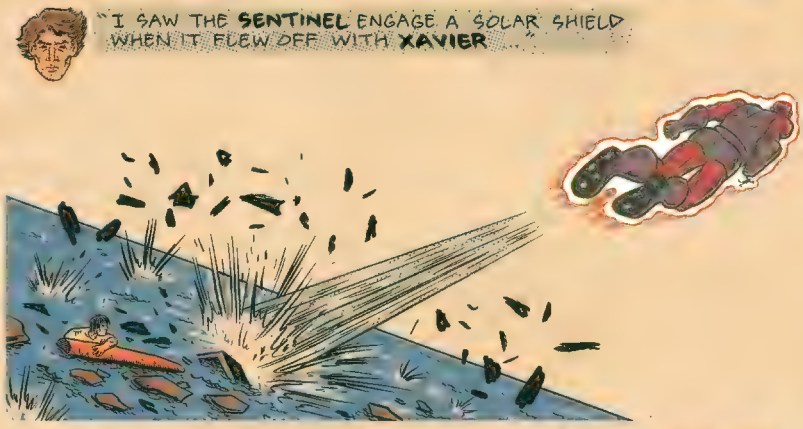

SEVEN MILLION DOLLARS' WORTH OF THE MANSION'S SECURITY ORDNANCE IS POINTED AT THE INTRUDER'S HEAD WHEN **NIGHTCRAWLER** OPTS TO TELEPORT OUT AND ASSESS THINGS CLOSER.
Gone...
Charles is gone...


DR. PETER CORBEAU: BILLIONAIRE INVENTOR, CEO, AND ASTRONAUT AT **STARCORE**, THE WORLD'S FIRST COMMERCIAL SPACEFLIGHT ORGANIZATION.
XAVIER NEVER MENTIONED ME? I'M THE GUY WHO GOT **NICK FURY** OFF YOUR BACKS...
WHERE IS THE **PROFESSOR**? WHAT HAPPENED?

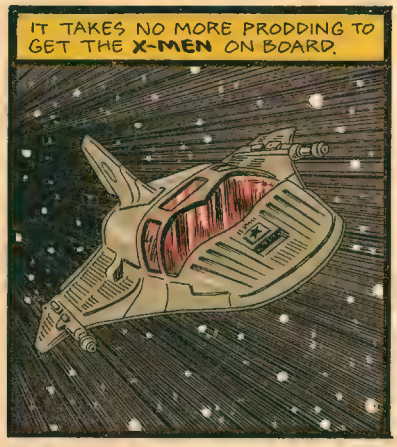

"I'M NOT SURE HOW MUCH HE LET YOU KNOW, BUT **CHARLES** HAS BEEN HAVING TROUBLE HIS MIND... HE DOESN'T SLEEP. HALLUCINATIONS...

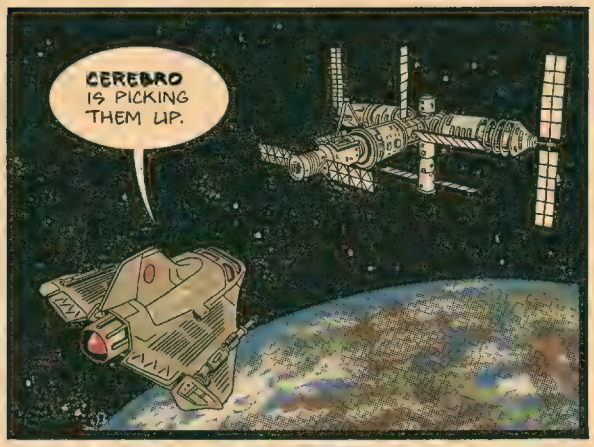

"I THOUGHT SOME TIME OFF AT MY PROPERTY IN THE **BAHAMAS** WOULD DO HIM GOOD."

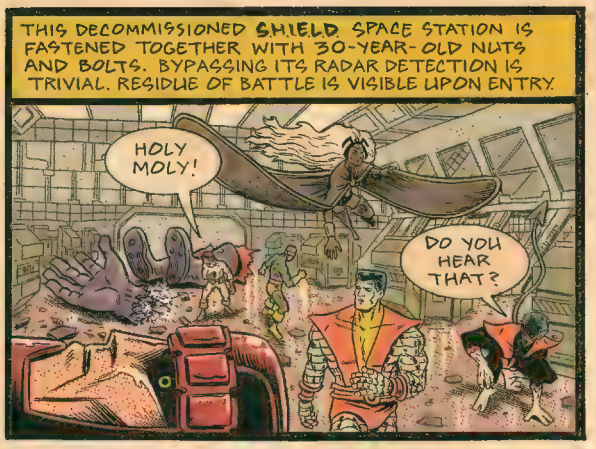

"IT ALL HAPPENED IN SECONDS...

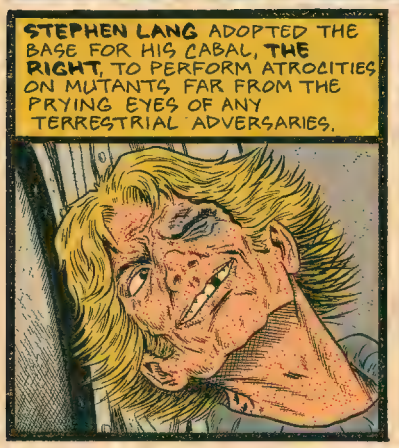

"I SAW THE **SENTINEL** ENGAGE A SOLAR SHIELD WHEN IT FLEW OFF WITH **XAVIER**..."

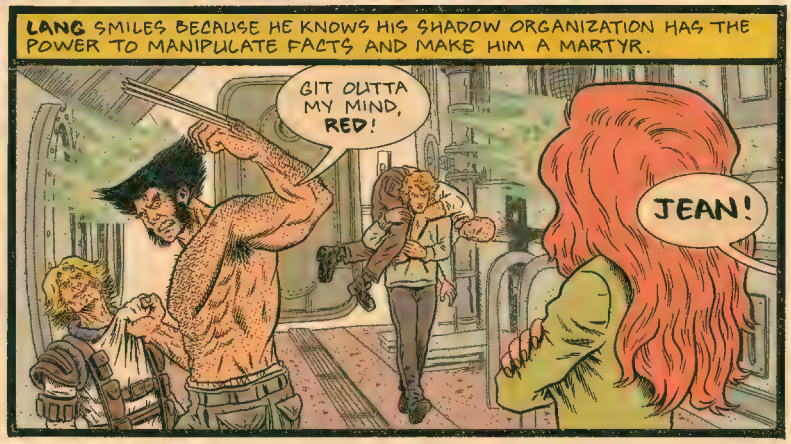
SPACE TRAVEL IS THE ONLY USE FOR THOSE KINDS OF PROTECTIONS. GRAB THE PORTABLE **CEREBRO**, PACK YOUR THINGS AND LET'S GO GET YOUR TEACHER.

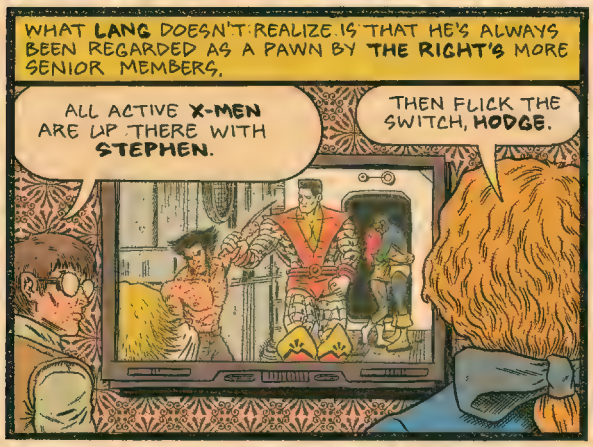

IT TAKES NO MORE PRODDING TO GET THE **X-MEN** ON BOARD.


CEREBRO IS PICKING THEM UP.


THIS DECOMMISSIONED SHIELD SPACE STATION IS FASTENED TOGETHER WITH 30-YEAR-OLD NUTS AND BOLTS. BYPASSING ITS RADAR DETECTION IS TRIVIAL. RESIDUE OF BATTLE IS VISIBLE UPON ENTRY.
HOLY MOLY!
DO YOU HEAR THAT?


STEPHEN LANG ADOPTED THE BASE FOR HIS CABAL, THE RIGHT, TO PERFORM ATROCITIES ON MUTANTS FAR FROM THE PRYING EYES OF ANY TERRESTRIAL ADVERSARIES.


LANG SMILES BECAUSE HE KNOWS HIS SHADOW ORGANIZATION HAS THE POWER TO MANIPULATE FACTS AND MAKE HIM A MARTYR.
GIT OUTTA MY MIND, RED!
JEAN!


WHAT LANG DOESN'T REALIZE IS THAT HE'S ALWAYS BEEN REGARDED AS A PAWN BY THE RIGHT'S MORE SENIOR MEMBERS.
ALL ACTIVE X-MEN ARE UP THERE WITH STEPHEN.
THEN FLICK THE SWITCH, HODGE.

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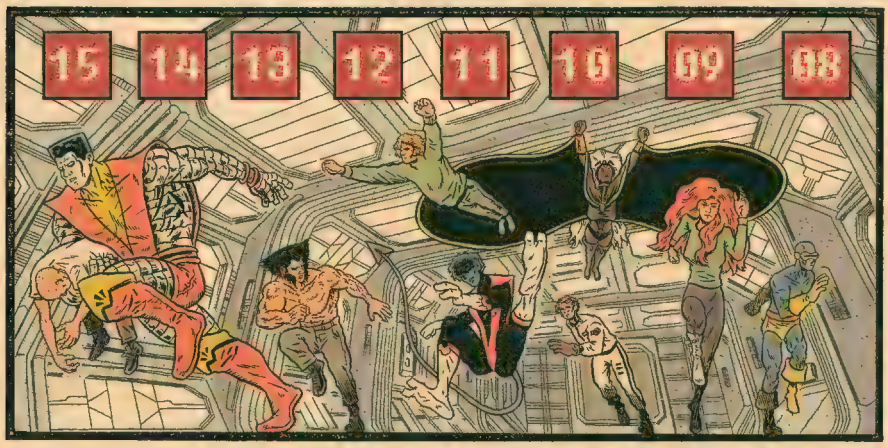
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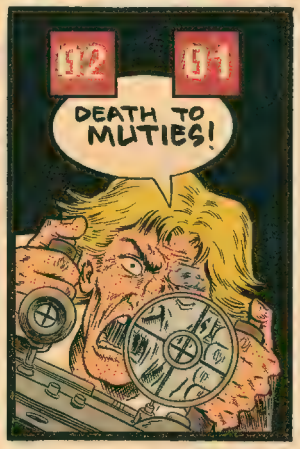
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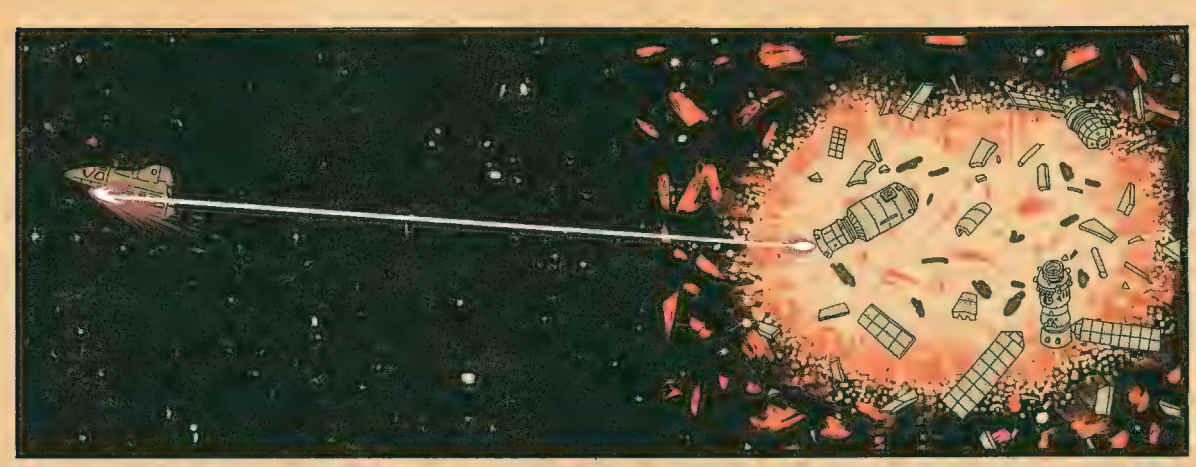
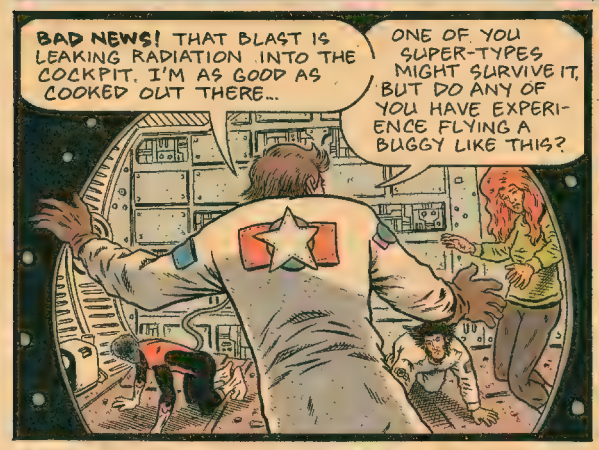
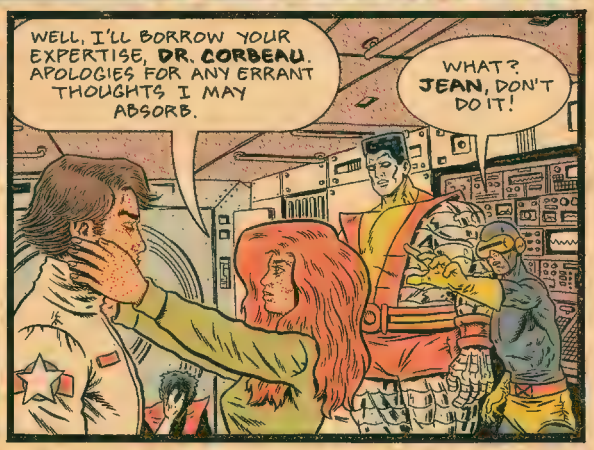
01
DEATH TO MUTIES!

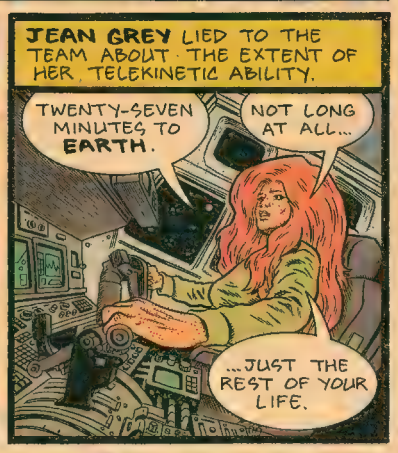



BAD NEWS! THAT BLAST IS LEAKING RADIATION INTO THE COCKPIT. I'M AS GOOD AS COOKED OUT THERE...
ONE OF YOU SUPER-TYPES MIGHT SURVIVE IT, BUT DO ANY OF YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE FLYING A BUGGY LIKE THIS?


WELL, I'LL BORROW YOUR EXPERTISE, DR. CORBEAU. APOLOGIES FOR ANY ERRANT THOUGHTS I MAY ABSORB.
WHAT? JEAN, DON'T DO IT!

IT'S THE ONLY WAY, SCOTT. DON'T WORRY, I CAN PLUG THE RADIATION FROM THE CONSOLE TELEKINETICALLY. NOW, BACK OFF.

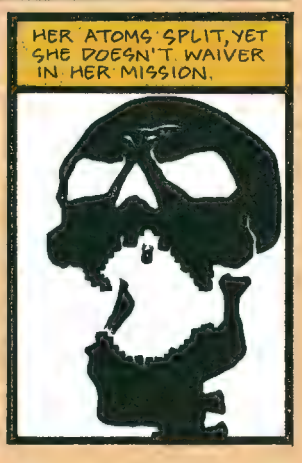
BACK IN THE SHUTTLE'S PROTECTIVE "LIFE-CELL."
CYCLOPS IS OUT COLD.
MY KINDA GIRL.


JEAN GREY LIED TO THE TEAM ABOUT THE EXTENT OF HER TELEKINETIC ABILITY.
TWENTY-SEVEN MINUTES TO EARTH.
NOT LONG AT ALL...
...JUST THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

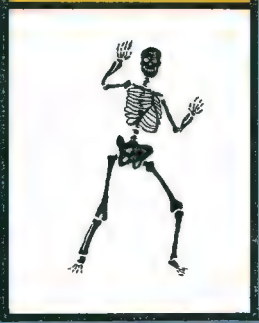
SHE IS STRICKEN BLIND ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.

THEN HER HUMORS BOIL AND EVAPORATE...

JEAN'S CELLS BEGIN TO DIVIDE AT A RAPID PACE...


HER ATOMS SPLIT, YET SHE DOESN'T WAIVER IN HER MISSION.

JUST BEFORE **JEAN** DISINTEGRATES, THE **PHOENIX** STRIKES A BARGAIN.

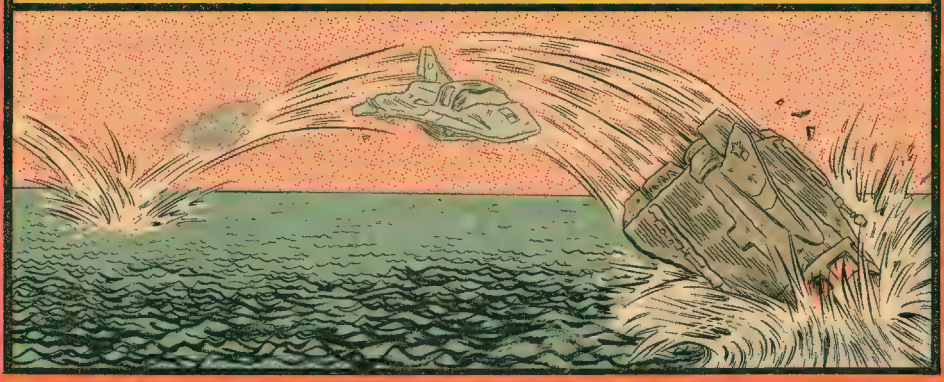


IN MOST WAYS IT'S A ONE-SIDED BARGAIN...

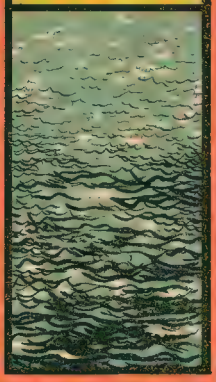
...BUT **JEAN** ISN'T IN THE POSITION TO NEGOTIATE TERMS...

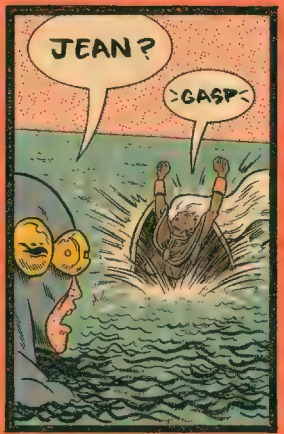
... AND THEN SHE RESTS...

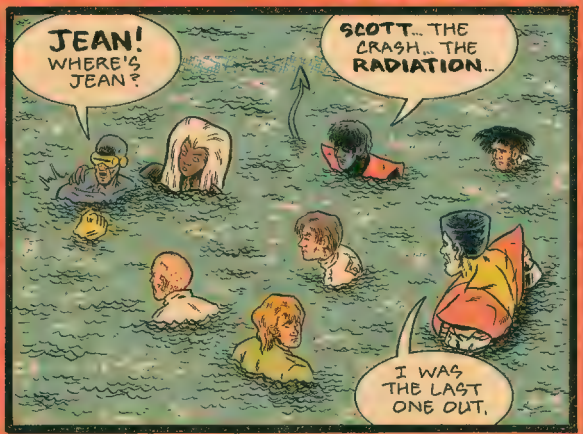
AT FIRST, THE **X-MEN** FELT THE SKID OF A **KENNEDY AIRPORT** RUNWAY, THEN THE SENSATION OF SKIPPING LIKE A STONE ACROSS **JAMAICA BAY**...



...THEN BLACK, COLD NOTHING...







SHE IS NO LONGER THE WOMAN THEY KNEW. SHE IS **FIRE**! SHE IS **LIFE INCARNATE**!

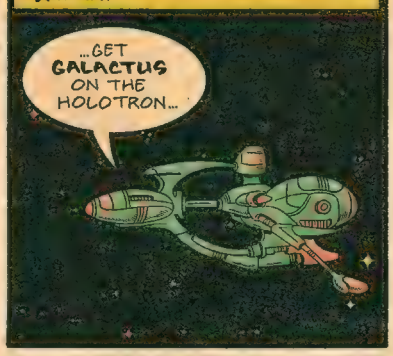
I...

...AM...

PHOENIX!

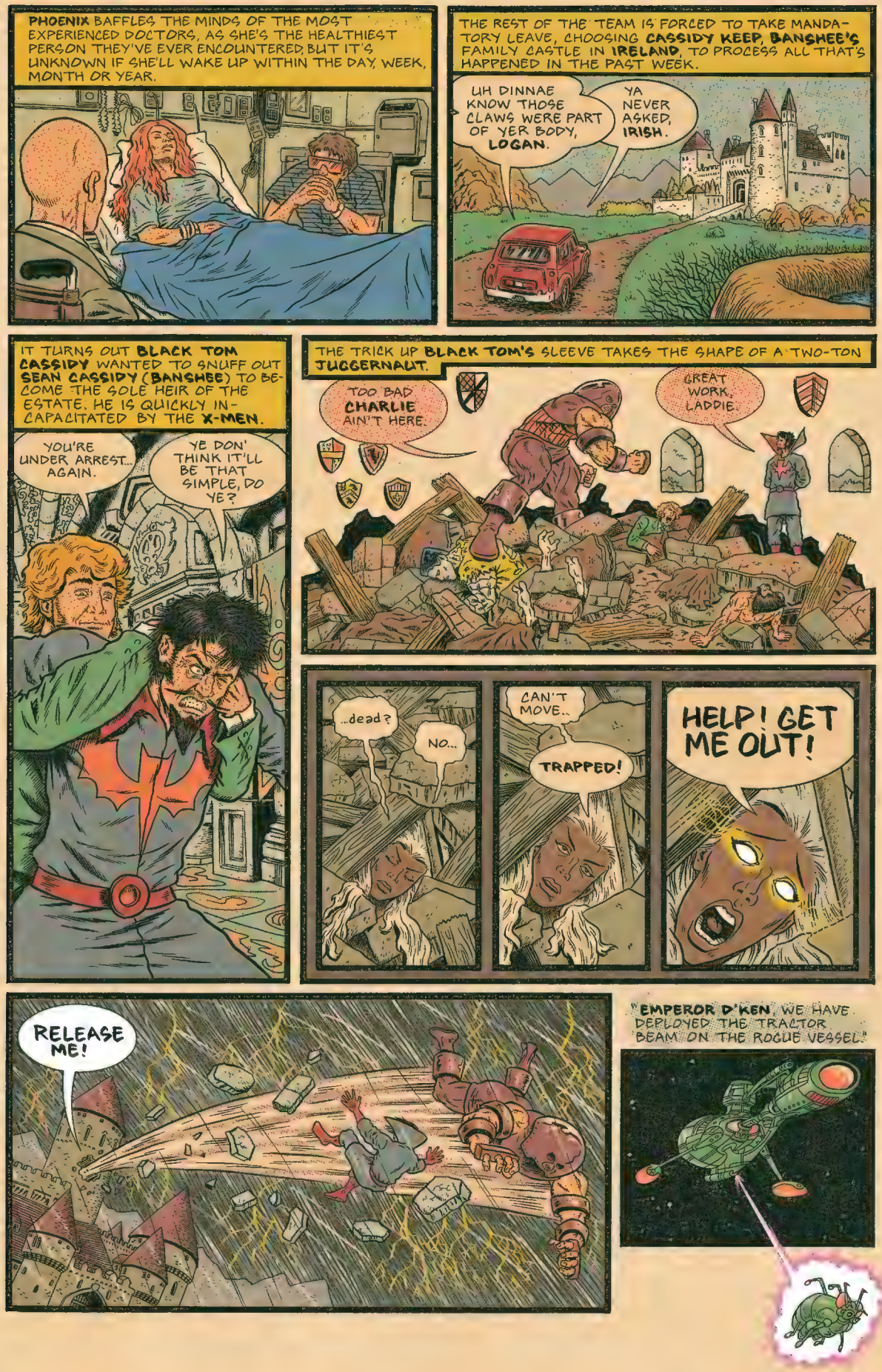
THE SPECTACLE IS SHORT-LIVED AS **PHOENIX** FIZZLES OUT LIKE A CHEAP MATCH.

THE ENTIRE GALAXY KNOWS WHAT JUST OCCURRED, INCLUDING **D'KEN**, THE EMPEROR OF THE **SHI'AR**.



...HE'LL BE INCLINED TO HELP ME DESTROY **PHOENIX** ONCE HE FINDS OUT I'LL OBLITERATE HIS FOOD SUPPLY, THE PLANETS OF THE UNIVERSE, IF HE DOES NOT COMPLY...

INDEPENDENT OF **D'KEN**, A SEPARATE **SHI'AR** VESSEL HAS DESIGNS ON REACHING THE **PHOENIX** AS SOON AS CAN BE.


PHOENIX BAFFLES THE MINDS OF THE MOST EXPERIENCED DOCTORS, AS SHE'S THE HEALTHIEST PERSON THEY'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED, BUT IT'S UNKNOWN IF SHE'LL WAKE UP WITHIN THE DAY, WEEK, MONTH OR YEAR.
THE REST OF THE TEAM IS FORCED TO TAKE MANDATORY LEAVE, CHOOSING CASSIDY KEEP, BANSHEE'S FAMILY CASTLE IN IRELAND, TO PROCESS ALL THAT'S HAPPENED IN THE PAST WEEK.
UH DINNAE KNOW THOSE CLAWS WERE PART OF YER BODY, LOGAN.
YA NEVER ASKED, IRISH.
IT TURNS OUT BLACK TOM CASSIDY WANTED TO SNUFF OUT SEAN CASSIDY (BANSHEE) TO BECOME THE SOLE HEIR OF THE ESTATE. HE IS QUICKLY INCAPACITATED BY THE X-MEN.
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST... AGAIN.
YE DON' THINK IT'LL BE THAT SIMPLE, DO YE?
THE TRICK UP BLACK TOM'S SLEEVE TAKES THE SHAPE OF A TWO-TON JUGGERNAUT.
TOO BAD CHARLIE AIN'T HERE.
GREAT WORK, LADDIE.
...dead?
NO...
CAN'T MOVE...
TRAPPED!
HELP! GET ME OUT!
RELEASE ME!
"EMPEROR D'KEN, WE HAVE DEPLOYED THE TRACTOR BEAM ON THE ROGUE VESSEL."

ONCE THE STRAY SPACE CRUISER IS TOWED ABOARD THE ROYAL MOTHERSHIP, **SHI'AR** INFANTRYMEN SEARCH THE CRAFT HIGH AND LOW...

EMPEROR D'KEN, SHE ISN'T HERE, I'M AFRAID...

SLIPPERY WENCH!

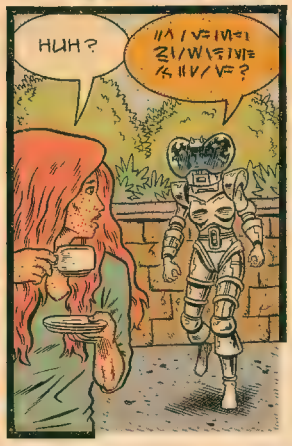
AT NEARLY THE SAME MOMENT, **PHOENIX** IS MAINTAINING THE ACT OF RECUPERATION AMONG **JEAN GREY'S** FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

...I ALWAYS WANTED TO VISIT **IRELAND**...

DON'T GET UP, **JEAN**.

...I'M SAD I MISSED IT. ANYONE ELSE LIKE A REFILL?

HUH?



GALACTUS LENDS HIS NEW HERALD, **FIRELORD**, TO **D'KEN'S** CAUSE...

PHOENIX DIES TODAY.

D'KEN KNOWS IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO DEFEAT **PHOENIX** IN HER CONSCIOUS STATE. THIS BATTLE PROVIDES A SMOKE SCREEN FOR THE TRUE MISSION...

LILANDRA!

ERASING EXISTENCE WOULDN'T BE FUN FOR **D'KEN** IF HE COULDN'T FIRST GLOAT IN FRONT OF HIS **SISTER**.

FIRELORD FLIES BACK TO HIS MASTER'S SIDE.

WHO IS THE BROAD, **CHUCK**?

SHE'S... IMPORTANT... **GO GET HER!**

JEAN, HOW ARE YOU DOING THIS?

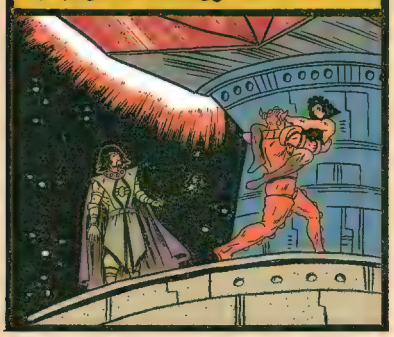
HURRY! I CAN'T HOLD IT OPEN MUCH LONGER.

OUR COSTUMES?

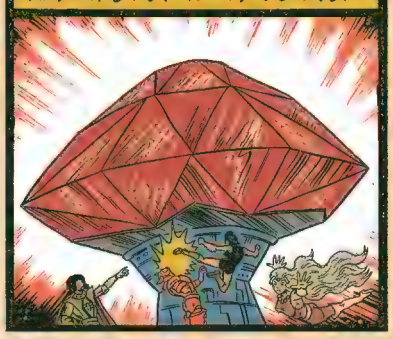
MEIN GOTT!

THE STRONGEST WARRIORS OF THE **SHI'AR EMPIRE** THINK IT'S A NOBLE, PATRIOTIC ACT TO PROVIDE A FRONT-LINE PHALANX BETWEEN THE **X-MEN** AND THEIR EMPEROR.

NONE OF THEM SUSPECT THAT **D'KEN** PLANS TO END ALL OF CREATION NOW THAT HE CAN'T POSSESS DOMINION OVER THE **PHOENIX FORCE**.



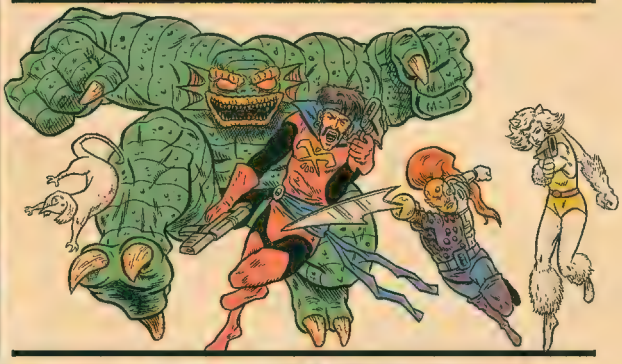
SHI'AR PROPAGANDA PREVENTS ITS CITIZENS FROM KNOWING THAT THE **M'KRAAN CRYSTAL** IS THE HEART OF OUR UNIVERSE AND THE KEY TO ITS DEMISE.



THE STARS ARE NEARLY IN ALIGNMENT FOR CREATING THE TRIGGER TO DETONATION.

NOT ONLY ARE THE **X-MEN** GROSSLY OUTNUMBERED, BUT THE DENSE GRAVITY MAKES IT HARD TO MOVE, LET ALONE FIGHT.

THANKFULLY, A BAND OF PIRATES, THE **STARJAMMERS**, HAVE A VERY GOOD IDEA OF WHAT **D'KEN** IS PLANNING ON THIS BARREN WORLD.

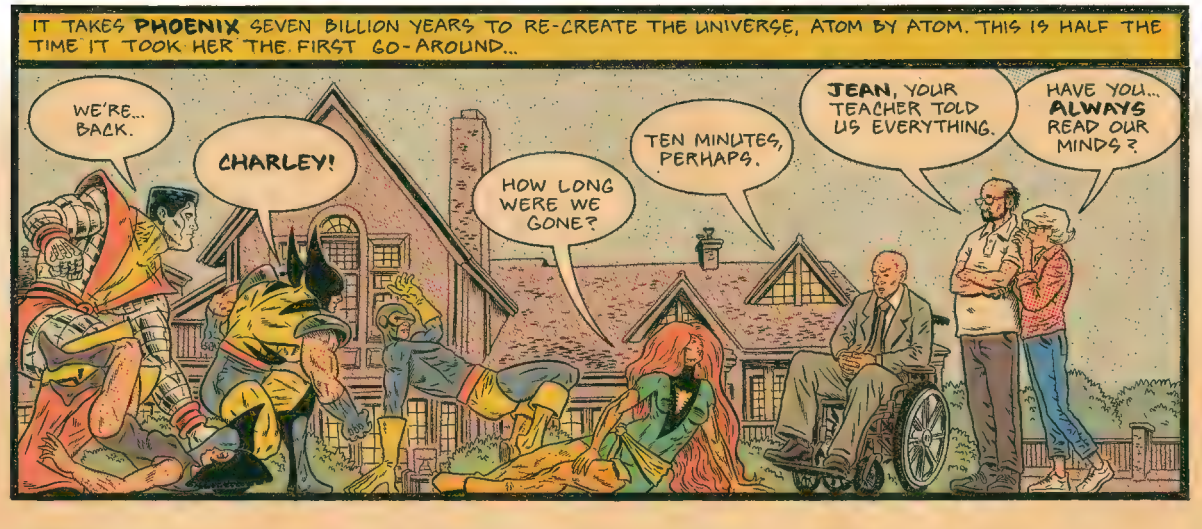


THE MORE THE FIGHTING CONTINUES, THE CLOSER **D'KEN** IS TO DRIVING THE FINAL NAIL INTO OUR COFFIN.

IN THE END, EVEN THE OMNIPOTENT **PHOENIX** DOESN'T REACH THE **SHI'AR** DESPOT IN TIME.

BLINK!

ANNIE!
YOU'RE NOT JEANNIE! YOU FAKER!
WHAT IS THIS?
I PUT US INSIDE THE M'KRAAN CRYSTAL. NOTHING ELSE EXISTS.
SOMEHOW, I THINK I CAN REBUILD THE UNIVERSE...
I'M GOING TO NEED ALL OF YOUR HELP...
YOU MUST BE WARNED...
IT'S GOING TO TAKE US AN ETERNITY...
AND WE'LL FEEL EVERY SECOND...
BUT, THANK-FULLY...
THIS DOESN'T EXIST YET...


IT TAKES PHOENIX SEVEN BILLION YEARS TO RE-CREATE THE UNIVERSE, ATOM BY ATOM. THIS IS HALF THE TIME IT TOOK HER THE FIRST GO-AROUND...
WE'RE... BACK.
CHARLEY!
HOW LONG WERE WE GONE?
TEN MINUTES, PERHAPS.
JEAN, YOUR TEACHER TOLD US EVERYTHING.
HAVE YOU... ALWAYS READ OUR MINDS?

ONE CAN IMAGINE THAT THE ACT OF ASSEMBLING ALL OF CREATION WOULD BE A TREMENDOUSLY DRAINING ENDEAVOR.
HELLO, JEAN.
ONE COULD ALSO IMAGINE THE WEARINESS AND PARANOIA OF THOSE WHO MAY BE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH SUCH A GOD.
THE KID'LL BE FINE, ONE-EYE.
NO ONE IS ASKING YOU...
...LITTLE MAN!
STRIKE TWO!
NO ONE'S COVERING SECOND!
THE ODOR OF SULFUR AND BRIMSTONE PERMEATES THE FIELD.
OUT!
BAMF!
GRRRRR!
THAT'S A GOOD GIRL.
LOOK DEEP INTO MY EYES.
SECONDS LATER MESMERO WALKS HIS PUPPET OUTSIDE.
JEAN! STEP AWAY FROM HIM!

NOW THAT D'KEN IS OUT OF THE PICTURE, WHEN DO YOU EXPECT YOU'LL TAKE OVER LEADERSHIP OF THE SHI'AR, LILANDRA?

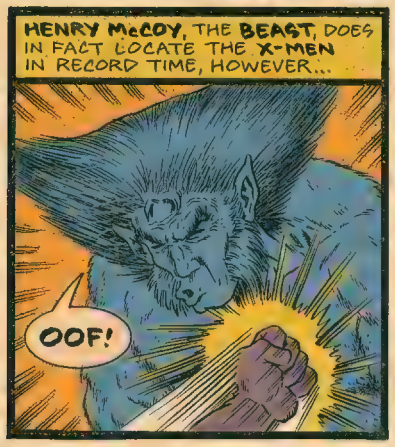
THERE IS MUCH BUREAUCRACY THE SENATE MUST SORT OUT BEFORE I TAKE MY RIGHTFUL PLACE.
UGH!

RIGHT NOW, I JUST PLAN TO CONTINUE THIS MAGICAL EXPERIENCE WITH YOU, HERE ON EARTH.
THERE'S TROUBLE AT THE SCHOOL!

...HENRY, I KNOW THE AVENGERS ARE KEEPING YOU BUSY THESE DAYS...

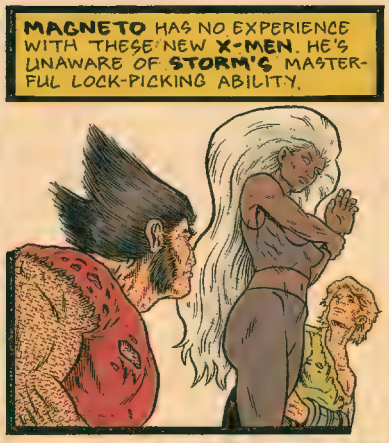
...BUT WITHOUT YOUR POWERS OF DEDUCTION I FEAR WE'LL NEVER SEE THE X-MEN ALIVE EVER AGAIN.
SAY NO MORE, PROFESSOR...

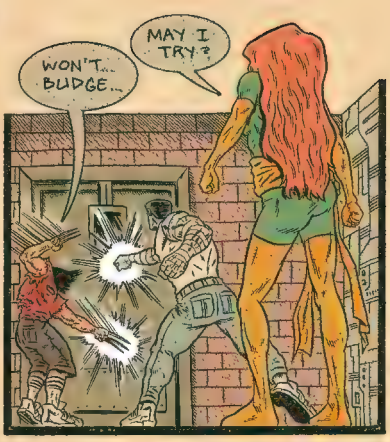
...I PROMISE TO EMANCIPATE OUR COMRADES. I JUST HOPE THEY DON'T ASSAIL MY POSTERIOR UPON RETRIEVAL. IT'S UNLIKELY THEY'LL RECOGNIZE MY VISAGE SINCE THE ACCIDENT.
THANK YOU, HANK.

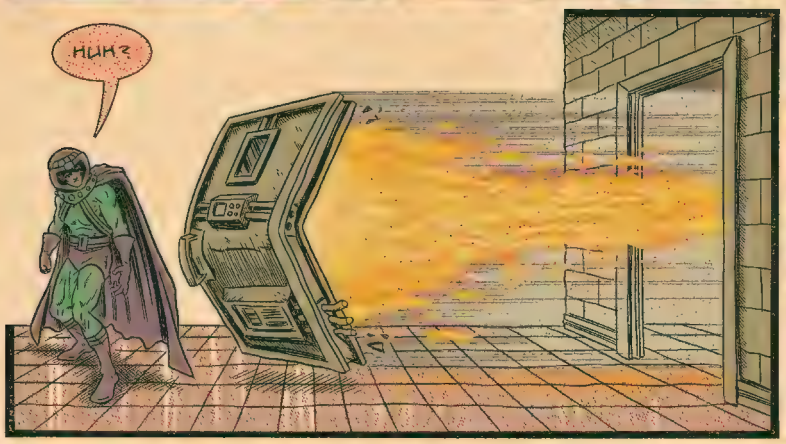

HENRY McCOY, THE BEAST, DOES IN FACT LOCATE THE X-MEN IN RECORD TIME, HOWEVER...
OOF!

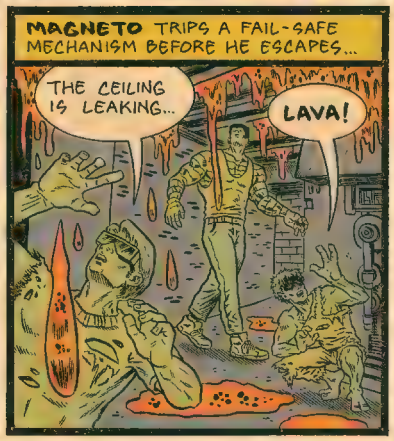
NO NEED TO ADD SALT IN THE WOUND, MESMERO.
YES, SIR.
W-where are we?
>ZZZZZ<
>ZZZZ<

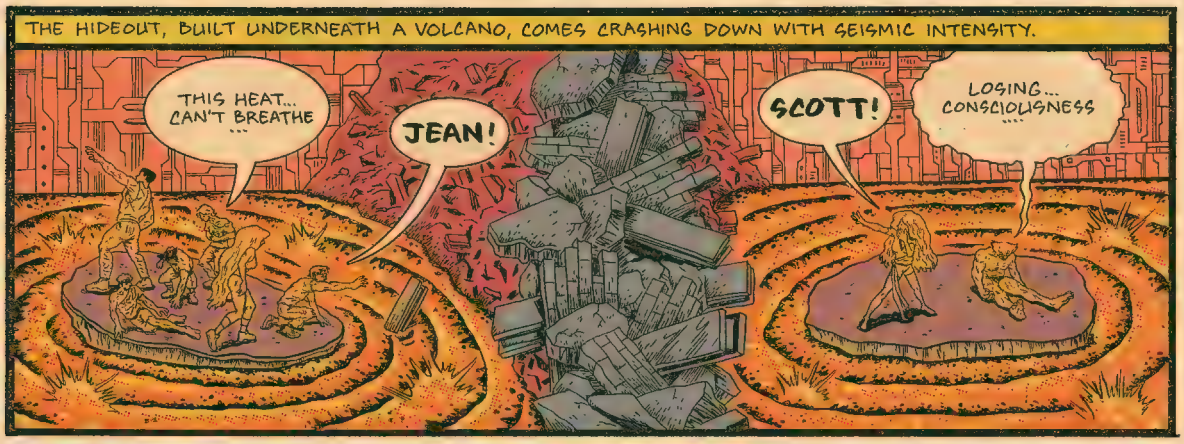
LOCK THEM UP FOR THE EVENING, MESMERO.

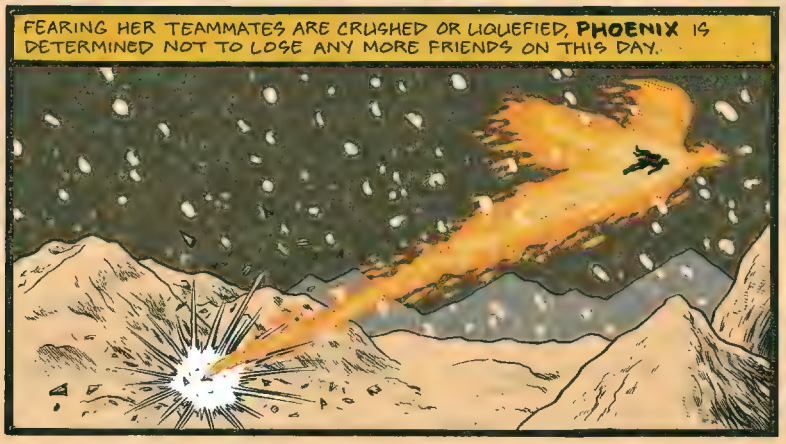

MAGNETO HAS NO EXPERIENCE WITH THESE NEW X-MEN. HE'S UNAWARE OF STORM'S MASTERFUL LOCK-PICKING ABILITY.


WON'T... BUDGE...
MAY I TRY?

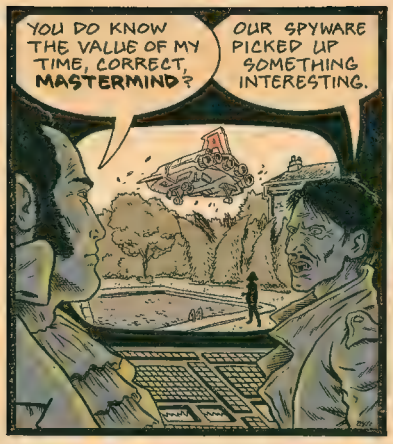

HUH?


MAGNETO TRIPS A FAIL-SAFE MECHANISM BEFORE HE ESCAPES...
THE CEILING IS LEAKING...
LAVA!

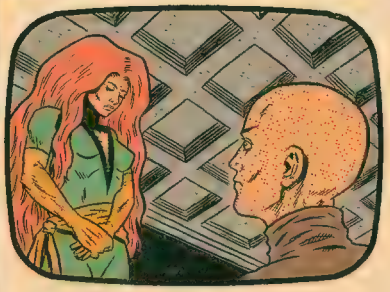

THE HIDEOUT, BUILT UNDERNEATH A VOLCANO, COMES CRASHING DOWN WITH SEISMIC INTENSITY.
THIS HEAT... CAN'T BREATHE
JEAN!
SCOTT!
LOSING... CONSCIOUSNESS


FEARING HER TEAMMATES ARE CRUSHED OR LIQUEFIED, PHOENIX IS DETERMINED NOT TO LOSE ANY MORE FRIENDS ON THIS DAY.

BEAST HOPES TO RECIPROCATE AFTER PHOENIX EXHAUSTS HERSELF FROM STRAINING HER POWERS TO THEIR LIMIT.

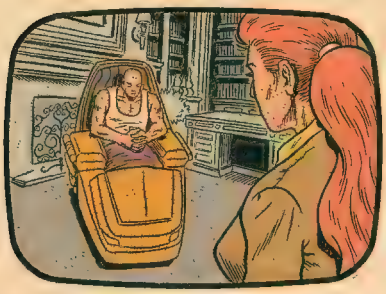


MASTERMIND PLAYS THE TAPE JUST AFTER THE AVENGERS QUINJET DROPS BEAST AND PHOENIX OFF AT THE MANSION.



IT'S THE PART WHERE XAVIER RECEIVES UPDATES ON THE FATE OF THE OTHER X-MEN.

"THERE IS NOTHING FOR ME HERE ANY LONGER, JEAN. I'LL BE JOINING LILANDRA WHEN SHE TAKES HER THRONE."



"I'M...'NOTHING' TO YOU, PROFESSOR?"

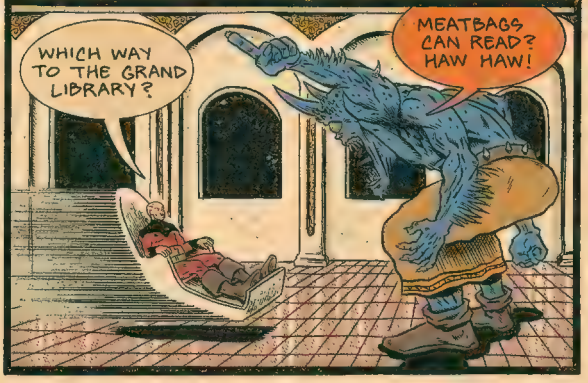
THE X-MEN ARE, IN FACT, STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE, HAVING BEEN SPIT FROM THE VOLCANO INTO THE SAVAGE LAND.

FROM THE ANTARCTIC, THEY WERE LUCKY ENOUGH TO BE SPOTTED BY A SHIP FULL OF JAPANESE EXPLORERS...

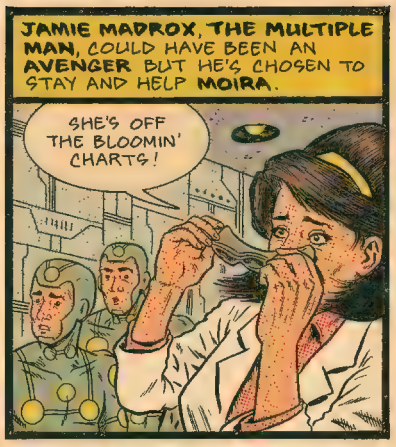
THERE IS A SNAG IN CANADA ON THEIR WAY BACK TO THE STATES. ALPHA FLIGHT CONSIDERS WOLVERINE TO BE GOVERNMENT PROPERTY...

WHILE THE X-MEN TRAVERSE THE EARTH, THE CORONATION OF LILANDRA AS MAJESTRIX OF THE SHI'AR BRINGS NEW HOPE FOR THE GALAXY.

CHARLES HAS PLENTY OF TIME TO HIMSELF WHILE HIS LOVER IS BUSY GOVERNING...

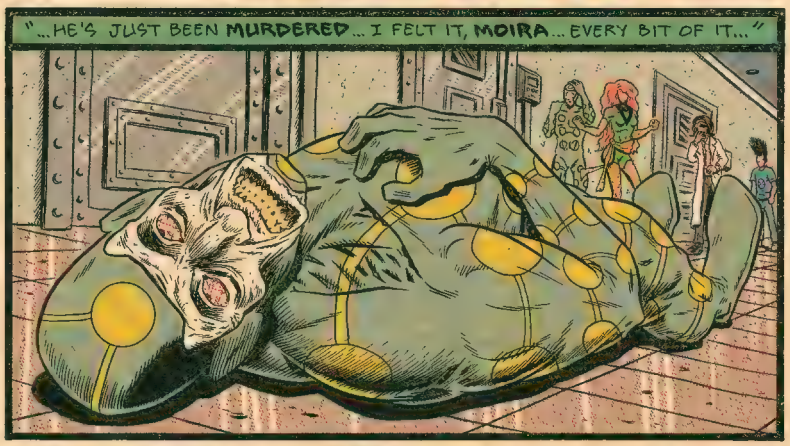


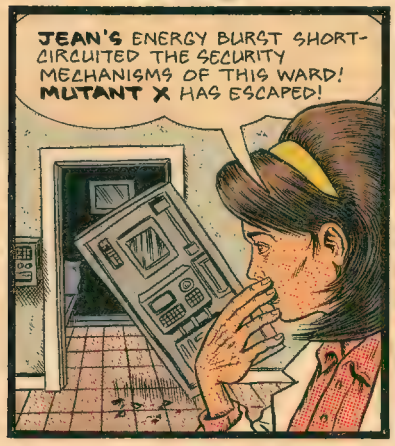
MUIR ISLAND MUTANT RESEARCH FACILITY, THE HERMIT KINGDOM OF MOIRA MacTAGGERT.
READY WHEN YOU ARE, JEANNIE.

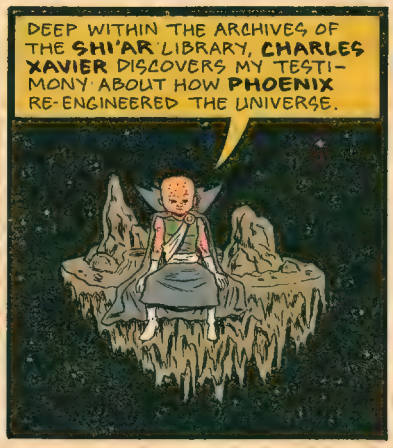

JAMIE MADROX, THE MULTIPLE MAN, COULD HAVE BEEN AN AVENGER BUT HE'S CHOSEN TO STAY AND HELP MOIRA.
SHE'S OFF THE BLOOMIN' CHARTS!

AAARGH!

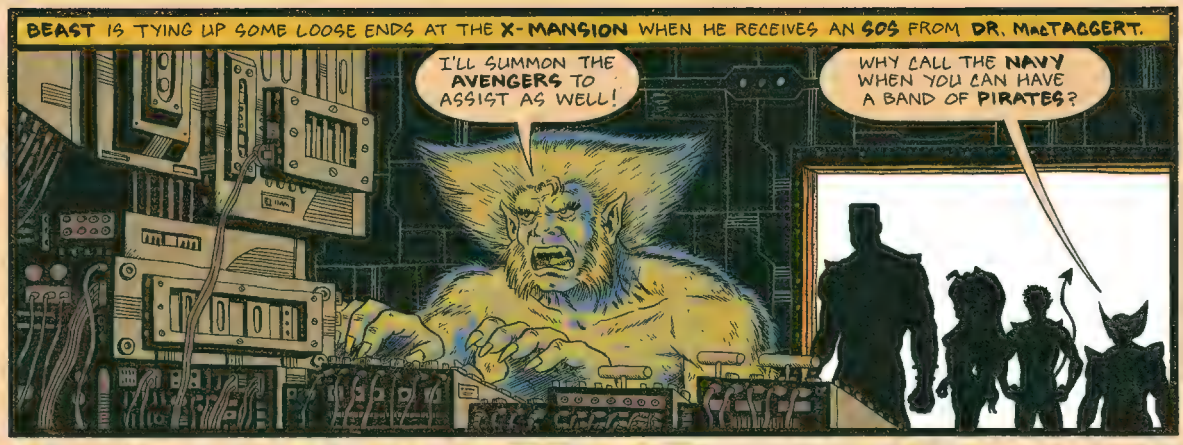
JAMIE? WHAT IS IT?
ONE OF MY... DUPLICATES...


"...HE'S JUST BEEN MURDERED... I FELT IT, MOIRA... EVERY BIT OF IT..."


JEAN'S ENERGY BURST SHORT-CIRCUITED THE SECURITY MECHANISMS OF THIS WARD! MUTANT X HAS ESCAPED!


DEEP WITHIN THE ARCHIVES OF THE SHI'AR LIBRARY, CHARLES XAVIER DISCOVERS MY TESTIMONY ABOUT HOW PHOENIX RE-ENGINEERED THE UNIVERSE.

IT WILL BE... IMPOSSIBLE FOR THIS TO END WELL...

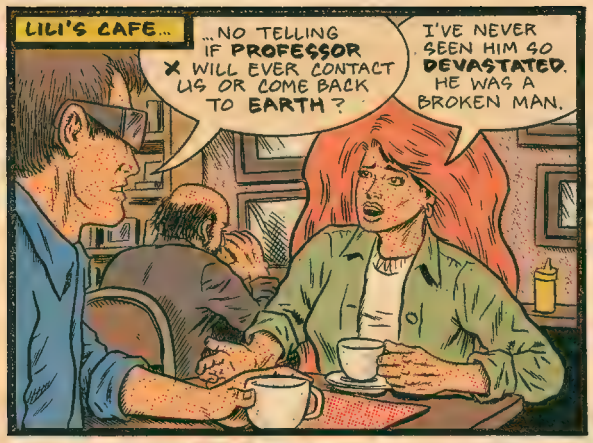

BEAST IS TYING UP SOME LOOSE ENDS AT THE X-MANSION WHEN HE RECEIVES AN SOS FROM DR. MacTAGGERT.
I'LL SUMMON THE AVENGERS TO ASSIST AS WELL!
WHY CALL THE NAVY WHEN YOU CAN HAVE A BAND OF PIRATES?

SCOTT! I THOUGHT YOU WERE...
I'LL FILL YOU IN WHEN WE'RE IN THE SKY!
BLACKBIRD IS FUELED UP!

PHOENIX NEUTRALIZES THE PROBLEM BEFORE THE X-MEN MAKE IT TO MUIR ISLAND.
I--I'M SORRY, MOIRA. HE... HE WAS... YOUR SON?
WAS IT NECESSARY TO INVADE HIS BRAIN BEFORE NUKING HIM?
NICE WORK, RED!

PHOENIX DOESN'T QUITE RECOGNIZE HER TEAMMATES AT FIRST.
I TOOK NO PLEASURE IN THIS.

LET'S GO HOME, JEAN.


LILI'S CAFE...
...NO TELLING IF PROFESSOR X WILL EVER CONTACT US OR COME BACK TO EARTH?
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM SO DEVASTATED. HE WAS A BROKEN MAN.

I NEED ANOTHER CUP...

JEAN? IS IT?

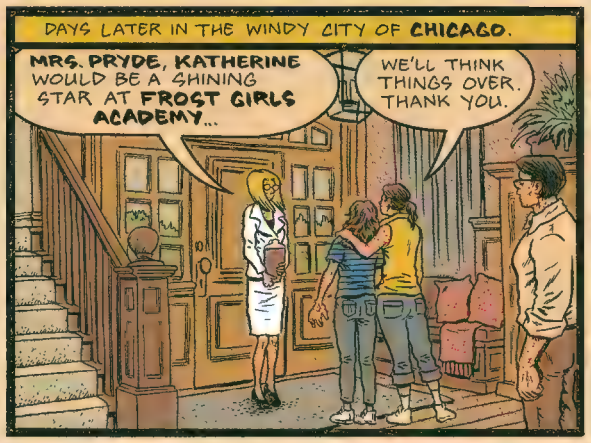
IT IS! FANCY SEEING YOU AGAIN!
JASON!

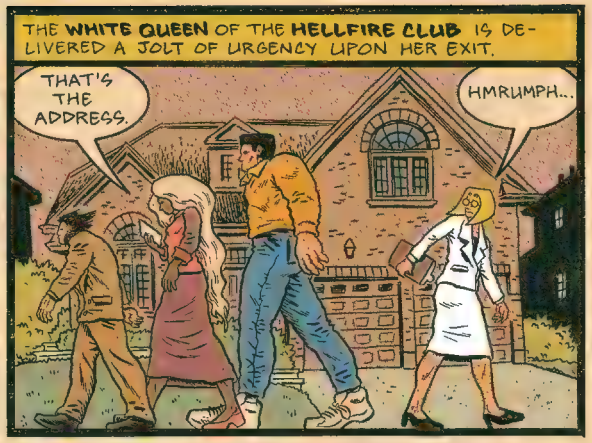
I CONFESS I'M IN A HURRY, BUT, PERHAPS OUR THIRD ENCOUNTER SHALL BE THE CHARM.

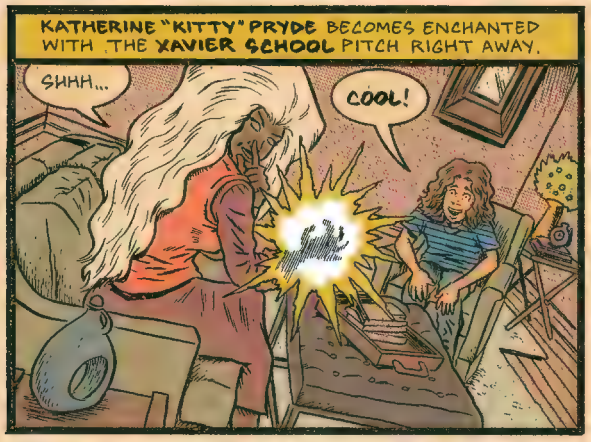
I MET HIM NEAR MUIR ISLAND. I'M NOT SURE HOW I KNOW IT, BUT HIS NAME IS JASON WYNGARDE...

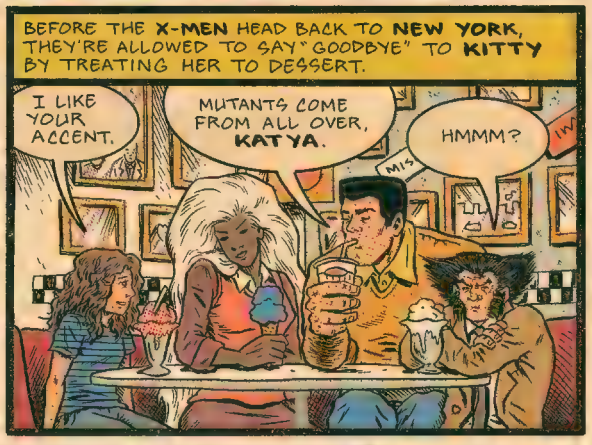
BACK AT THE MANSION, CEREBRO IS PINGING TWO NEW ALPHA-LEVEL MUTANTS WHO MATCH OR EXCEED THE POWERS AND ABILITIES OF THE X-MEN.
ONE IS UNCOMMON. TWO IS A SINGULAR EVENT...
I KINDA HOPE THEY'RE BAD GUYS.

THE INNER CIRCLE OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB SIPHONS THIS INFORMATION FROM THEIR MALWARE TROJAN HORSES.
UNPOLISHED GEMS!
IT SHOULD BE EASIER TO OBTAIN AND MONETIZE THEIR DNA THAN THE X-MEN.
SPARE NO EXPENSE TO MAKE SURE WE GET TO THEM FIRST.

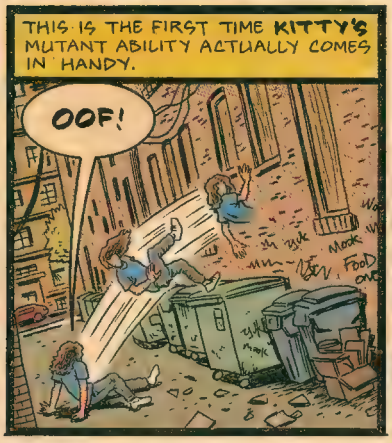

DAYS LATER IN THE WINDY CITY OF CHICAGO.
MRS. PRYDE, KATHERINE WOULD BE A SHINING STAR AT FROST GIRLS ACADEMY...
WE'LL THINK THINGS OVER. THANK YOU.


THE WHITE QUEEN OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB IS DELIVERED A JOLT OF URGENCY UPON HER EXIT.
THAT'S THE ADDRESS.
HMRUMPH...


KATHERINE "KITTY" PRYDE BECOMES ENCHANTED WITH THE XAVIER SCHOOL PITCH RIGHT AWAY.
SHHH...
COOL!


BEFORE THE X-MEN HEAD BACK TO NEW YORK, THEY'RE ALLOWED TO SAY "GOODBYE" TO KITTY BY TREATING HER TO DESSERT.
I LIKE YOUR ACCENT.
MUTANTS COME FROM ALL OVER, KATYA.
HMMM?

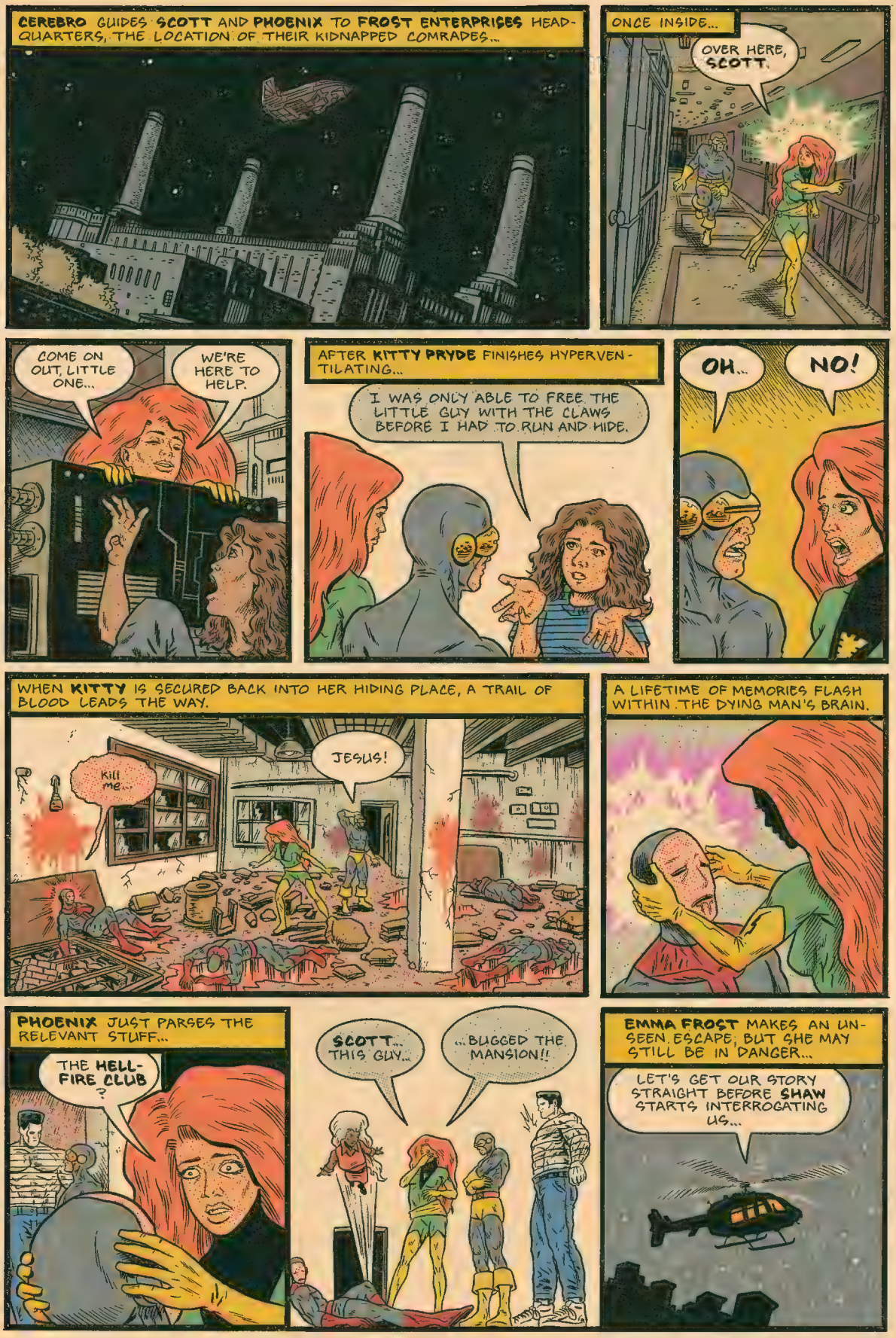
WAIT FOR MY SIGNAL, BOYS.
EXIT

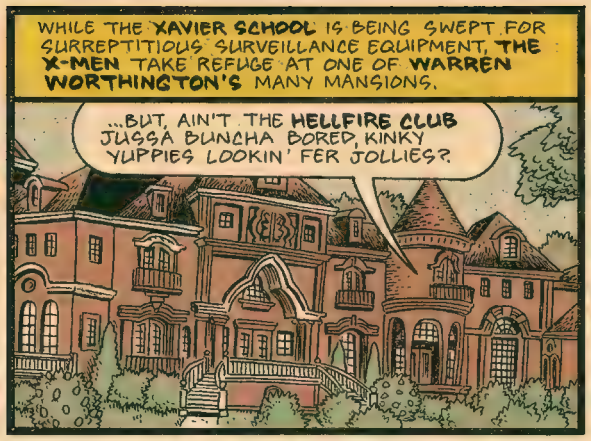

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME KITTY'S MUTANT ABILITY ACTUALLY COMES IN HANDY.
OOF!

NO NEED FOR THE KID NOW.

JUST BEFORE THE KIDNAPPERS PULL AWAY...
HOW CAN I HELP?
Kitty...

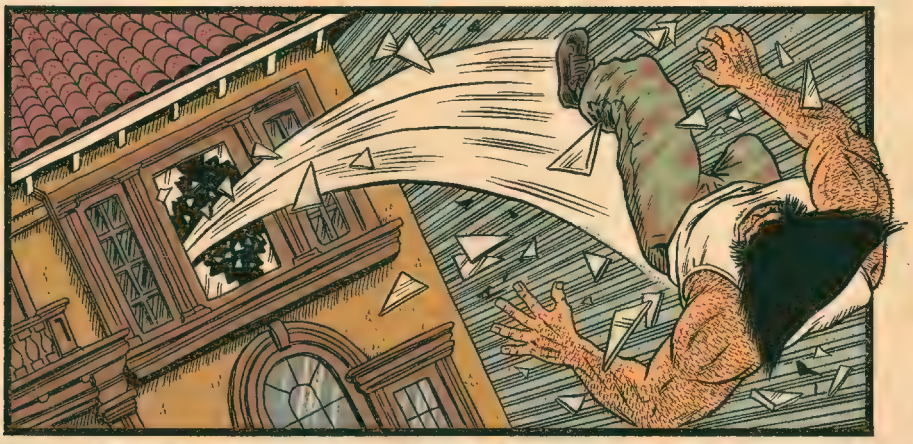
A MANHATTAN NIGHTSPOT DURING THE SAME TIME AS THE EVENTS IN CHICAGO.
JEAN, CAN YOU PINPOINT THE MUTANT?
ALMOST THERE.
SCOTT!
ALISON BLAIRE'S STAGE NAME IS DAZZLER...
OKAY, MY PET MONSTERS ...
...IF YOU WANT IT, YOU GOT IT!
...THE NAME FITS HER MUTANT ABILITY.
THE PERFORMANCE LEAVES EVERYONE IN A DAZE EXCEPT CYCLOPS, THANKS TO HIS RUBY-QUARTZ SUNGLASSES.
HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT USING YOUR POWERS FOR THE GREATER GOOD?
NO THANKS, JACK. I'M A ROCK STAR.
SCOTT SUMMERS AND THE PHOENIX WERE APART MAYBE TEN MINUTES BEFORE...
WYNGARDE!
NIGHTCRAWLER JUST ENDED AN EMERGENCY TRANSMISSION FROM A VERY DISTRAUGHT KITTY PRYDE.
WHERE'S JEAN? WE MUST GO.
THE X-MEN HAVE BEEN CAPTURED.


CEREBRO GUIDES SCOTT AND PHOENIX TO FROST ENTERPRISES HEADQUARTERS, THE LOCATION OF THEIR KIDNAPPED COMRADES...
ONCE INSIDE...
OVER HERE, SCOTT.
COME ON OUT, LITTLE ONE...
WE'RE HERE TO HELP.
AFTER KITTY PRYDE FINISHES HYPERVENTILATING...
I WAS ONLY ABLE TO FREE THE LITTLE GUY WITH THE CLAWS BEFORE I HAD TO RUN AND HIDE.
OH...
NO!
WHEN KITTY IS SECURED BACK INTO HER HIDING PLACE, A TRAIL OF BLOOD LEADS THE WAY.
Kill me...
JESUS!
A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES FLASH WITHIN THE DYING MAN'S BRAIN.
PHOENIX JUST PARSES THE RELEVANT STUFF...
THE HELL-FIRE CLUB?
SCOTT... THIS GUY...
...BUGGED THE MANSION!!
EMMA FROST MAKES AN UNSEEN ESCAPE, BUT SHE MAY STILL BE IN DANGER...
LET'S GET OUR STORY STRAIGHT BEFORE SHAW STARTS INTERROGATING US...


WHILE THE XAVIER SCHOOL IS BEING SWEPT FOR SURREPTITIOUS SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT, THE X-MEN TAKE REFUGE AT ONE OF WARREN WORTHINGTON'S MANY MANSIONS.
...BUT, AIN'T THE HELLFIRE CLUB JUSSA BUNCHA BORED, KINKY YUPPIES LOOKIN' FER JOLLIES?

I COULD HAVE PROBABLY GOTTEN MORE INFORMATION IF YOU WOULD HAVE LEFT A SURVIVOR OR TWO, LOGAN.
HA HA...

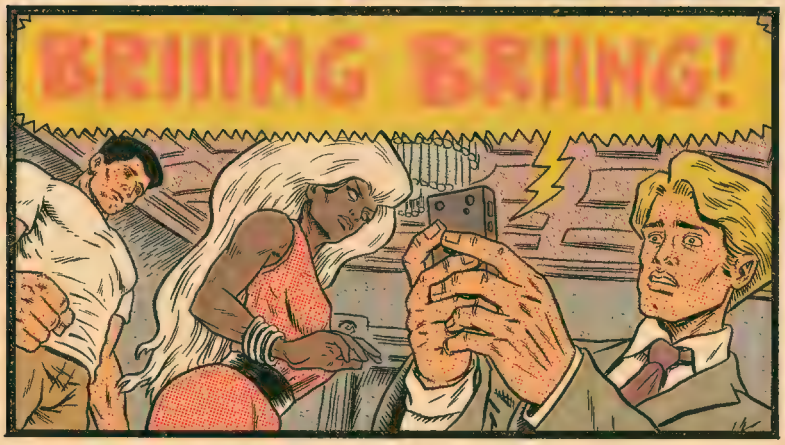
WELL, RED, YOU KNOW I'M THE BEST THERE IS AT WHAT I DO. BUT WHAT I DO ISN'T... HUH?



JEAN! WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU? YOU'VE NOT BEEN ACTING YOURSELF.

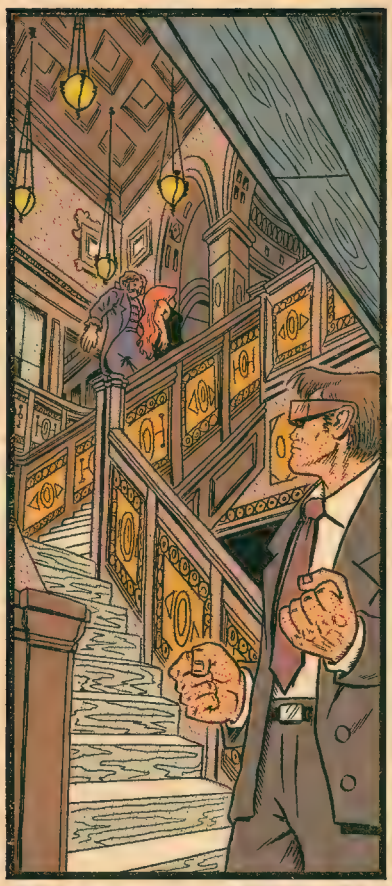
WHERE WAS I? OH, YES, THE HELLFIRE CLUB...
AH!

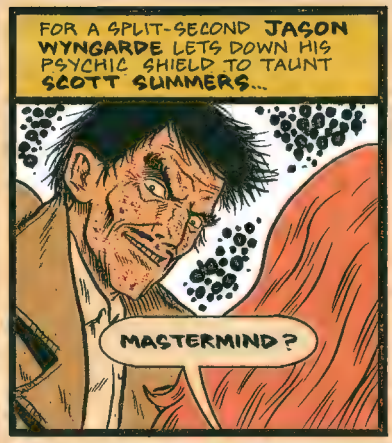
HOLD ON, BEAST IS ABOUT TO CALL US AND REPORT THAT HE'S LOCATED ALL THE SPYWARE BACK HOME.


BRIIING BRIING!

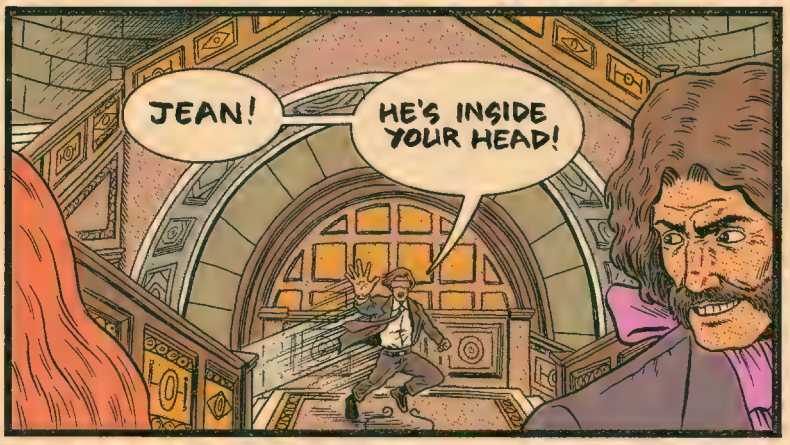
UH... YES?
HI, WARREN. IT'S HANK.
JEAN?

WEEKS LATER IN, NEW YORK CITY...
I DON'T LIKE THIS, SCOTT.
THEY ALREADY KNOW WE'RE ONTO THEM, ORORO.
BESIDES, THIS PARTY IS OPEN TO ANYONE WHO CAN AFFORD THE $1,000 PER PLATE TICKET.
YOUR COAT, MADAM?
DIRECTLY UNDERNEATH THE FESTIVITIES...
THEY GOTTA BE INSIDE BY NOW. GIMME A BOOST, ELF.
THE HELLFIRE CLUB, AN ELITIST, ARISTOCRATIC ORGANIZATION FOUNDED BACK WHEN NEW YORK WAS CALLED NEW AMSTERDAM.
IS THAT SENATOR KELLY?
I FEEL SO EXPOSED.
WELL, MASTERMIND. LET'S SEE IF THERE'S ANY SUBSTANCE TO ALL YOUR BLUSTER.
MAY I HAVE THIS DANCE, M'LADY?
THESE KINDS OF HALLUCINATIONS HAVE BECOME MORE AND MORE FREQUENT FOR PHOENIX.
DON'T WORRY, STRANGER, WE'RE ALL FRIENDS HERE. NOW COME AND SHAKE YOUR TAIL FEATHER.
WAIT, PLEASE.
JEAN?
THIS WAY, MY QUEEN.

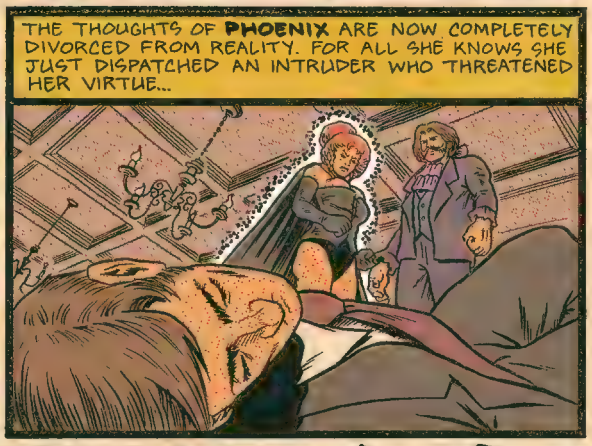



FOR A SPLIT-SECOND JASON WYNGARDE LETS DOWN HIS PSYCHIC SHIELD TO TAUNT SCOTT SUMMERS...
MASTERMIND?

Oh my...
JEAN?

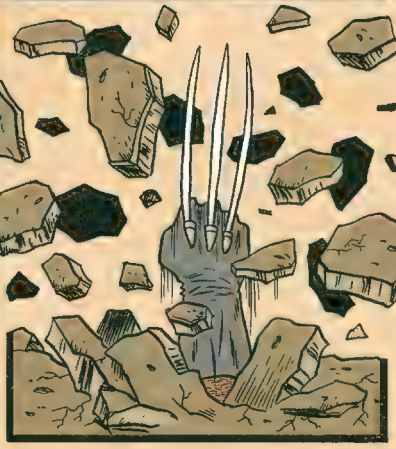

JEAN!
HE'S INSIDE YOUR HEAD!

ONCE UPSTAIRS...
AARGH!


THE THOUGHTS OF PHOENIX ARE NOW COMPLETELY DIVORCED FROM REALITY. FOR ALL SHE KNOWS SHE JUST DISPATCHED AN INTRUDER WHO THREATENED HER VIRTUE...

THE BASEMENT COMMAND CENTER OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB...
DO YOU HEAR SOMETHING, LELAND?

KEEP QUIET, PIERCE...



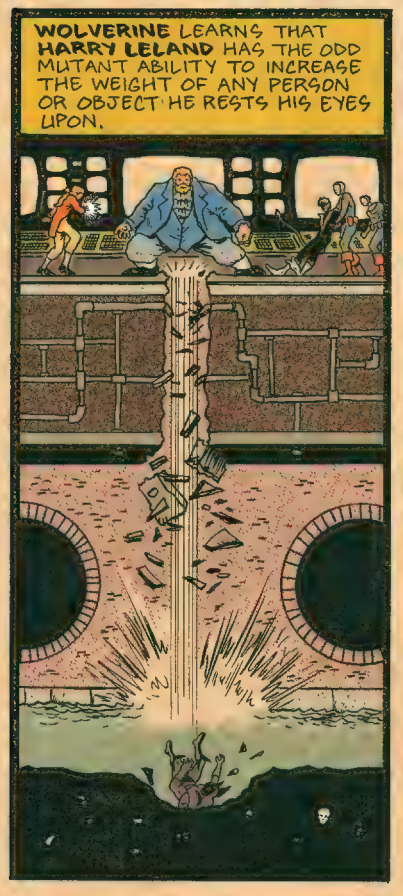
NOT MUCH OF A CHALLENGE, EH, MEIN FREUND?
DON'T LET THE SILENCE FOOL YA, ELF.

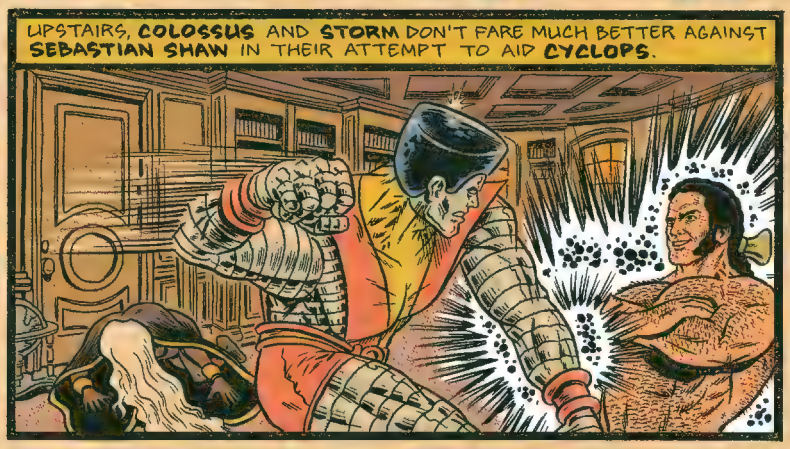
>Sniff Sniff< C'MON OUT NOW, YA NERDS.

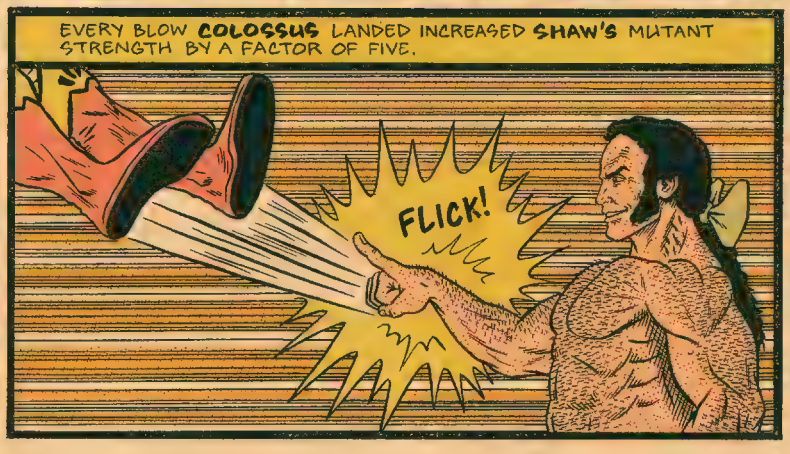
DONALD PIERCE STUDIED NIGHT-CRAWLER LONG ENOUGH TO DEVELOP A TECHNOLOGY TO PREVENT TELEPORTATION.

UNFORTUNATELY FOR PIERCE, MONEY CAN'T BUY ANYTHING THAT CAN STAND UP TO WOLVERINE'S ADAMANTIUM CLAWS.

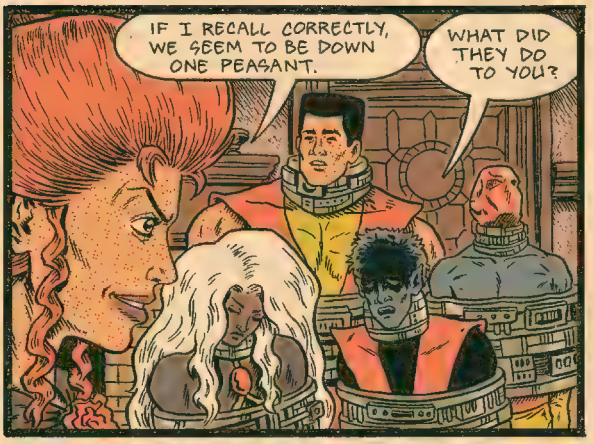
NO MORE OF THIS...
RUNT!
GETTING... HEAVY...


WOLVERINE LEARNS THAT HARRY LELAND HAS THE ODD MUTANT ABILITY TO INCREASE THE WEIGHT OF ANY PERSON OR OBJECT HE RESTS HIS EYES UPON.


UPSTAIRS, COLOSSUS AND STORM DON'T FARE MUCH BETTER AGAINST SEBASTIAN SHAW IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO AID CYCLOPS.


EVERY BLOW COLOSSUS LANDED INCREASED SHAW'S MUTANT STRENGTH BY A FACTOR OF FIVE.
FLICK!

WHEN THE DUST SETTLES, THE INNER CIRCLE OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB REJOICES IN MASTERMIND'S PSYCHIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER PHOENIX.
ALL HAIL OUR NEW BLACK QUEEN!
HERE, HERE!

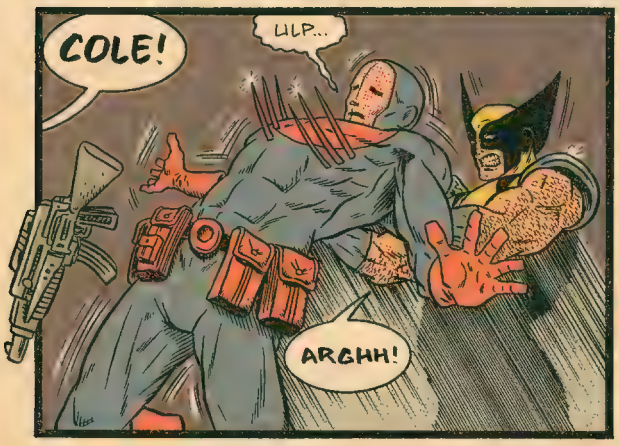

IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, WE SEEM TO BE DOWN ONE PEASANT.
WHAT DID THEY DO TO YOU?

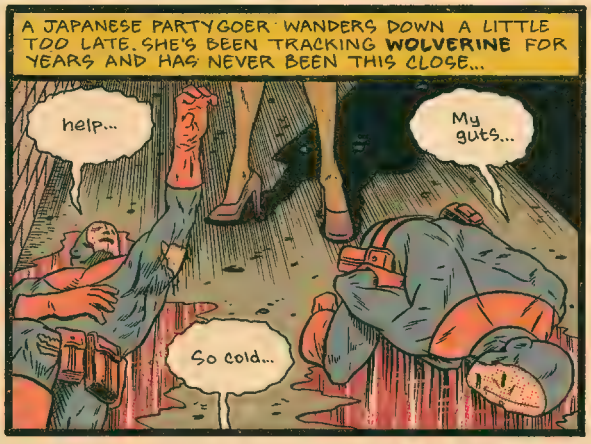
A CASUALTY, M'LADY. EVEN AN ABNORMAL HEALING FACTOR CAN'T HELP A MAN BREATHE UNDERWATER.

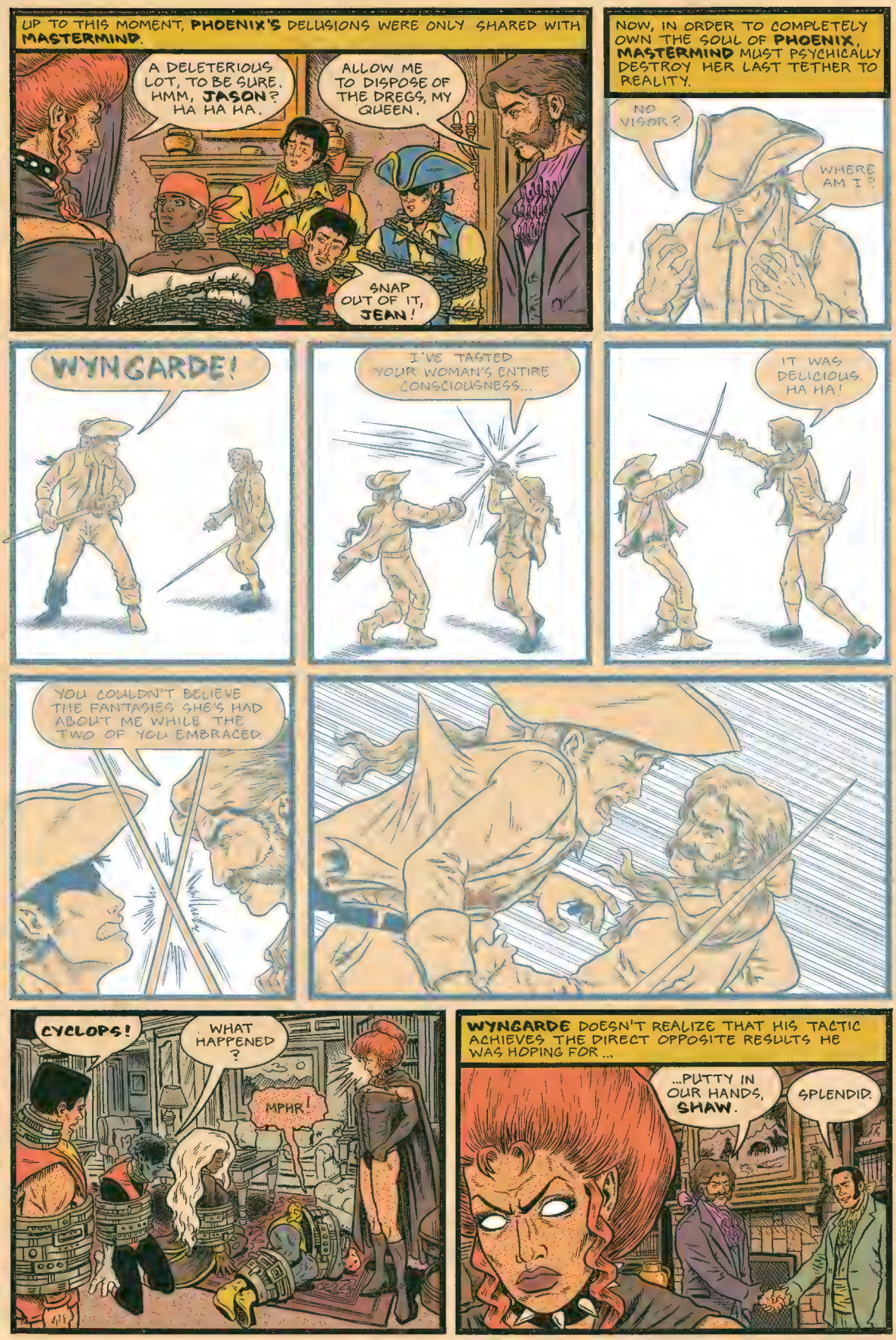
I'VE COMMANDED THREE OF OUR FINEST SOLDIERS TO MAKE SURE THAT LELAND IS CORRECT.

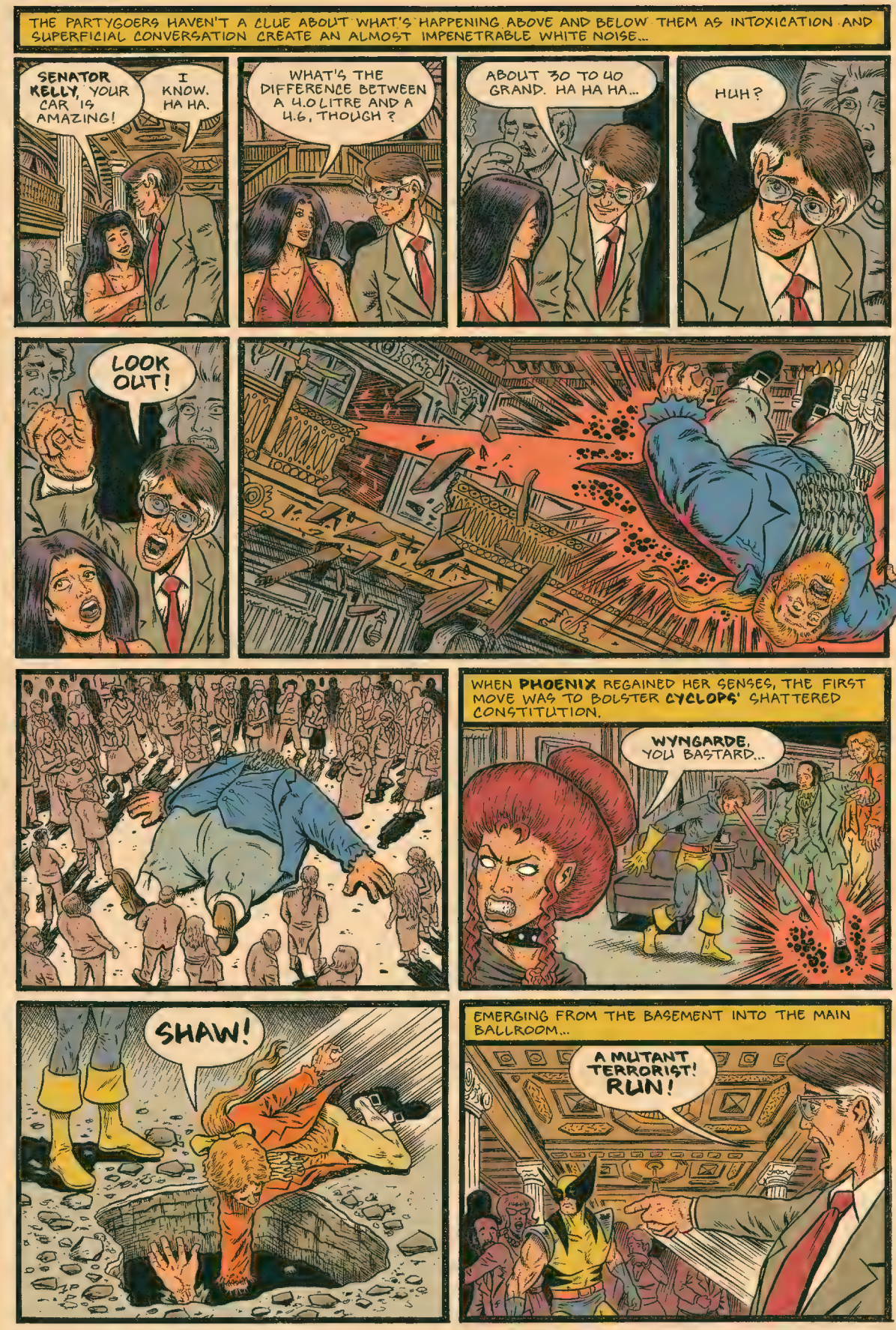
I DIDN'T THINK THIS WAS PART O' THE GIG WHEN I SIGNED UP.
THE PAY IS RIGHT THOUGH. EH, COLE?
MACON, REESE, SHUT UP. LET'S FIND THIS CARCASS AN' GET OUTTA THIS STINK HOLE.

SNIKT!

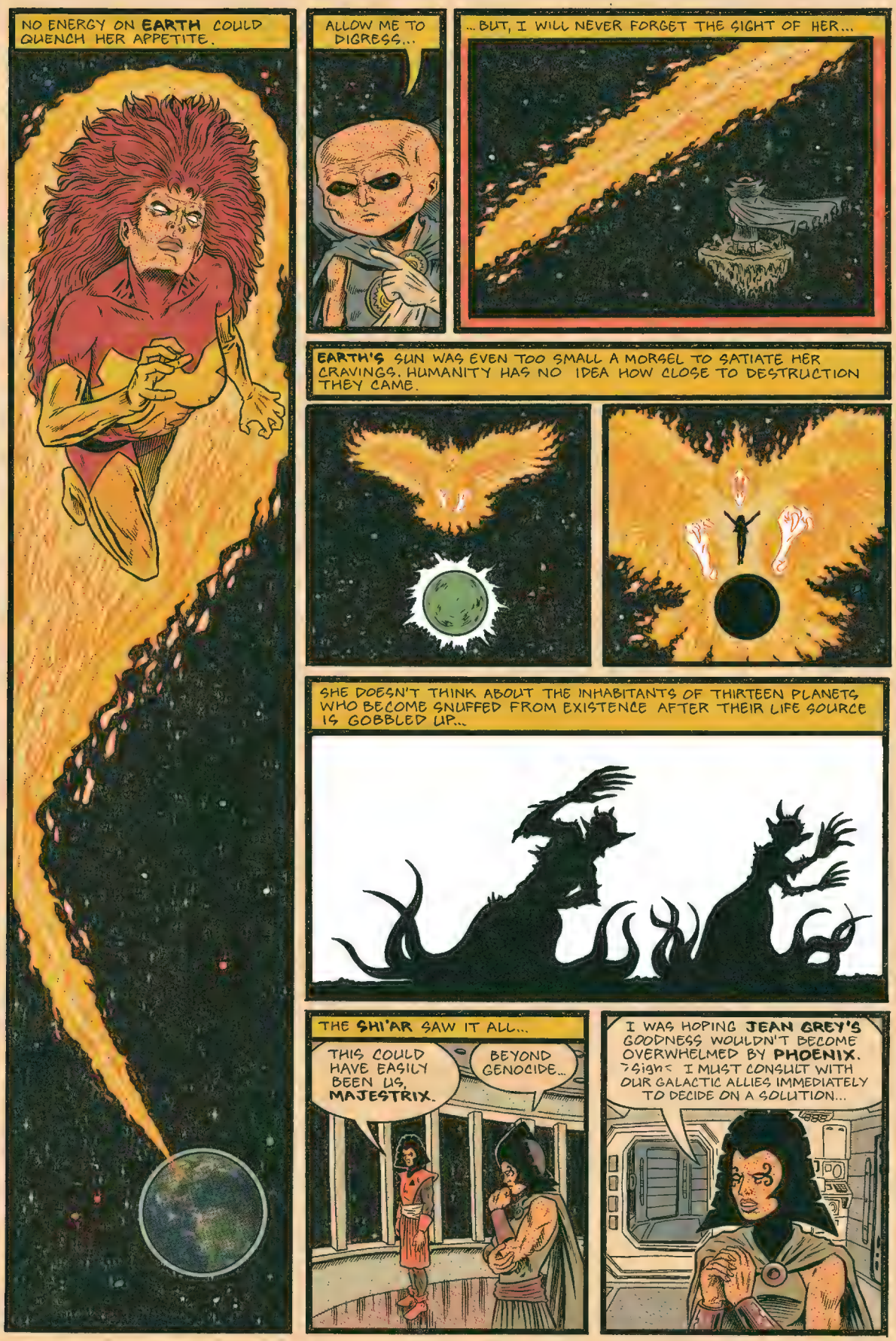

COLE!
LILP...
ARGHH!

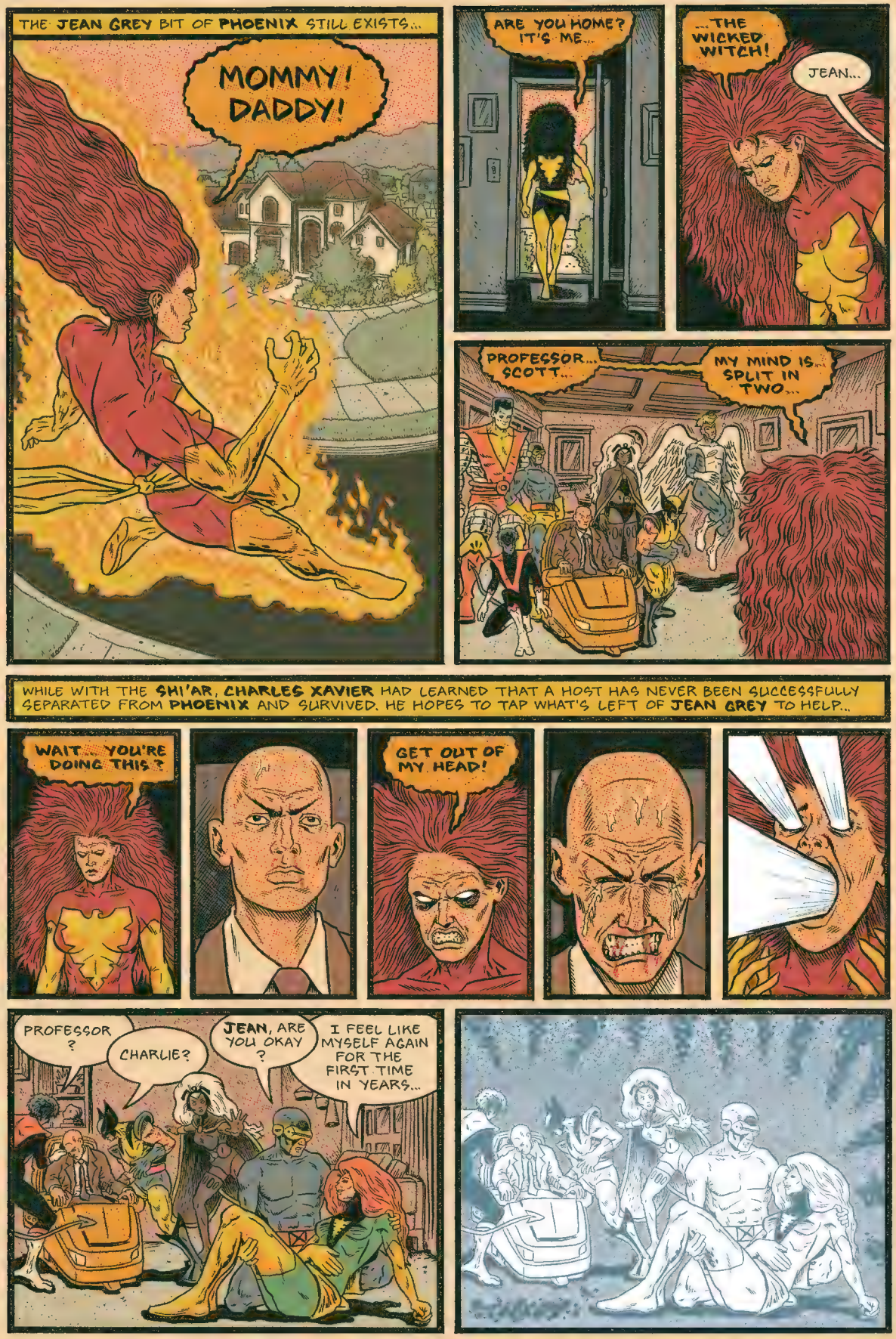

A JAPANESE PARTYGOER WANDERS DOWN A LITTLE TOO LATE. SHE'S BEEN TRACKING WOLVERINE FOR YEARS AND HAS NEVER BEEN THIS CLOSE...
help...
My guts...
So cold...


UP TO THIS MOMENT, PHOENIX'S DELUSIONS WERE ONLY SHARED WITH MASTERMIND.
A DELETERIOUS LOT, TO BE SURE. HMM, JASON? HA HA HA.
ALLOW ME TO DISPOSE OF THE DREGS, MY QUEEN.
SNAP OUT OF IT, JEAN!
NOW, IN ORDER TO COMPLETELY OWN THE SOUL OF PHOENIX, MASTERMIND MUST PSYCHICALLY DESTROY HER LAST TETHER TO REALITY.
NO VISOR?
WHERE AM I?
WYNGARDE!
I'VE TASTED YOUR WOMAN'S ENTIRE CONSCIOUSNESS...
IT WAS DELICIOUS. HA HA!
YOU COULDN'T BELIEVE THE FANTASIES SHE'S HAD ABOUT ME WHILE THE TWO OF YOU EMBRACED.
CYCLOPS!
WHAT HAPPENED?
MPHR!
WYNGARDE DOESN'T REALIZE THAT HIS TACTIC ACHIEVES THE DIRECT OPPOSITE RESULTS HE WAS HOPING FOR...
...PUTTY IN OUR HANDS, SHAW.
SPLENDID.


THE PARTYGOERS HAVEN'T A CLUE ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING ABOVE AND BELOW THEM AS INTOXICATION AND SUPERFICIAL CONVERSATION CREATE AN ALMOST IMPENETRABLE WHITE NOISE...
SENATOR KELLY, YOUR CAR IS AMAZING!
I KNOW. HA HA.
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A 4.0 LITRE AND A 4.6, THOUGH?
ABOUT 30 TO 40 GRAND. HA HA HA...
HUH?
LOOK OUT!
WHEN PHOENIX REGAINED HER SENSES, THE FIRST MOVE WAS TO BOLSTER CYCLOPS' SHATTERED CONSTITUTION.
WYNGARDE, YOU BASTARD...
SHAW!
EMERGING FROM THE BASEMENT INTO THE MAIN BALLROOM...
A MUTANT TERRORIST! RUN!

NIGHTCRAWLER REGRETS PREVENTING DONALD PIERCE FROM RACING DOWN THAT HOLE AFTER SEBASTIAN SHAW...
THE WHITE QUEEN HAS READIED THE CHOPPER FOR OUR ESCAPE, PIERCE! HURRY!
WOLVERINE'S KEEN SENSE OF SMELL BRINGS HIM CLOSER AND CLOSER TO...
...PHOENIX.
JEANNIE!
RED, YOU PICKLED THE JERK'S BRAINS!
SOMEHOW, MASTERMIND SHOOK LOOSE AN UNRESTRICTED AMOUNT OF POWER INSIDE OF PHOENIX THAT SHE FORGOT SHE POSSESSED.
ONE THING SUPERCEDES HER NARCOTIC EUPHORIA...
I HUNGER!


NO ENERGY ON EARTH COULD QUENCH HER APPETITE.
ALLOW ME TO DIGRESS...
...BUT, I WILL NEVER FORGET THE SIGHT OF HER...
EARTH'S SUN WAS EVEN TOO SMALL A MORSEL TO SATIATE HER CRAVINGS. HUMANITY HAS NO IDEA HOW CLOSE TO DESTRUCTION THEY CAME.
SHE DOESN'T THINK ABOUT THE INHABITANTS OF THIRTEEN PLANETS WHO BECOME SNUFFED FROM EXISTENCE AFTER THEIR LIFE SOURCE IS GOBBLED UP...
THE SHI'AR SAW IT ALL...
THIS COULD HAVE EASILY BEEN US, MAJESTRIX.
BEYOND GENOCIDE...
I WAS HOPING JEAN GREY'S GOODNESS WOULDN'T BECOME OVERWHELMED BY PHOENIX. >sigh< I MUST CONSULT WITH OUR GALACTIC ALLIES IMMEDIATELY TO DECIDE ON A SOLUTION...


THE JEAN GREY BIT OF PHOENIX STILL EXISTS...
MOMMY! DADDY!
ARE YOU HOME? IT'S ME...
...THE WICKED WITCH!
JEAN...
PROFESSOR... SCOTT...
MY MIND IS... SPLIT IN TWO...
WHILE WITH THE SHI'AR, CHARLES XAVIER HAD LEARNED THAT A HOST HAS NEVER BEEN SUCCESSFULLY SEPARATED FROM PHOENIX AND SURVIVED. HE HOPES TO TAP WHAT'S LEFT OF JEAN GREY TO HELP...
WAIT... YOU'RE DOING THIS?
GET OUT OF MY HEAD!
PROFESSOR?
CHARLIE?
JEAN, ARE YOU OKAY?
I FEEL LIKE MYSELF AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS...

THE **X-MEN** PHASE INTO THE TRIBUNAL CHAMBERS OF THE **SHI'AR EMPIRE'S** INTERGALACTIC SUPREME COURT.

LILANDRA, PLEASE ALLOW ME TO MAKE A CASE ON HER BEHALF...

WHAT IS THIS, **CHUCK**?

PHOENIX IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WANTON DESTRUCTION OF AN ENTIRE STAR SYSTEM CONTAINING TRILLIONS OF INHABITANTS...

..TO PREVENT FUTURE CARNAGE, THE COURT'S UNANIMOUS DECISION OF **JEAN GREY'S** EXECUTION HAS ALREADY BEEN RULED IN ABSENTIA...

YOU'LL HAVE TO KILL ME... KILL US ALL FIRST!!!

SCOTT!

WE FIRST CHALLENGE YOU TO **"ARIN'NN HAELAR,"** THE HONOR DUEL A **SHI'AR** CANNOT REFUSE!

YOU'VE LEARNED SO MUCH ABOUT MY CULTURE, **CHARLES**. HOWEVER, THIS IS MUCH BIGGER THAN JUST THE **SHI'AR**...

NEIGHBORING GALACTIC SUPER-POWERS CHIME IN...

"THE HUMANS WOULD FIGHT REGARDLESS. WE ACCEPT THEIR CHALLENGE."

"WE ALSO ACCEPT, SO LONG AS YOU SEE TO IT THAT THEY'RE NOT VICTORIOUS."

THE **X-MEN** GET ONE NIGHT'S REPRIEVE TO PREPARE FOR THE BATTLE OF THEIR LIVES...

I--I LOVE YOU, **JEAN**. SO VERY MUCH...

I KNOW.

PUNCTUALLY, WHEN MORNING COMES AROUND...

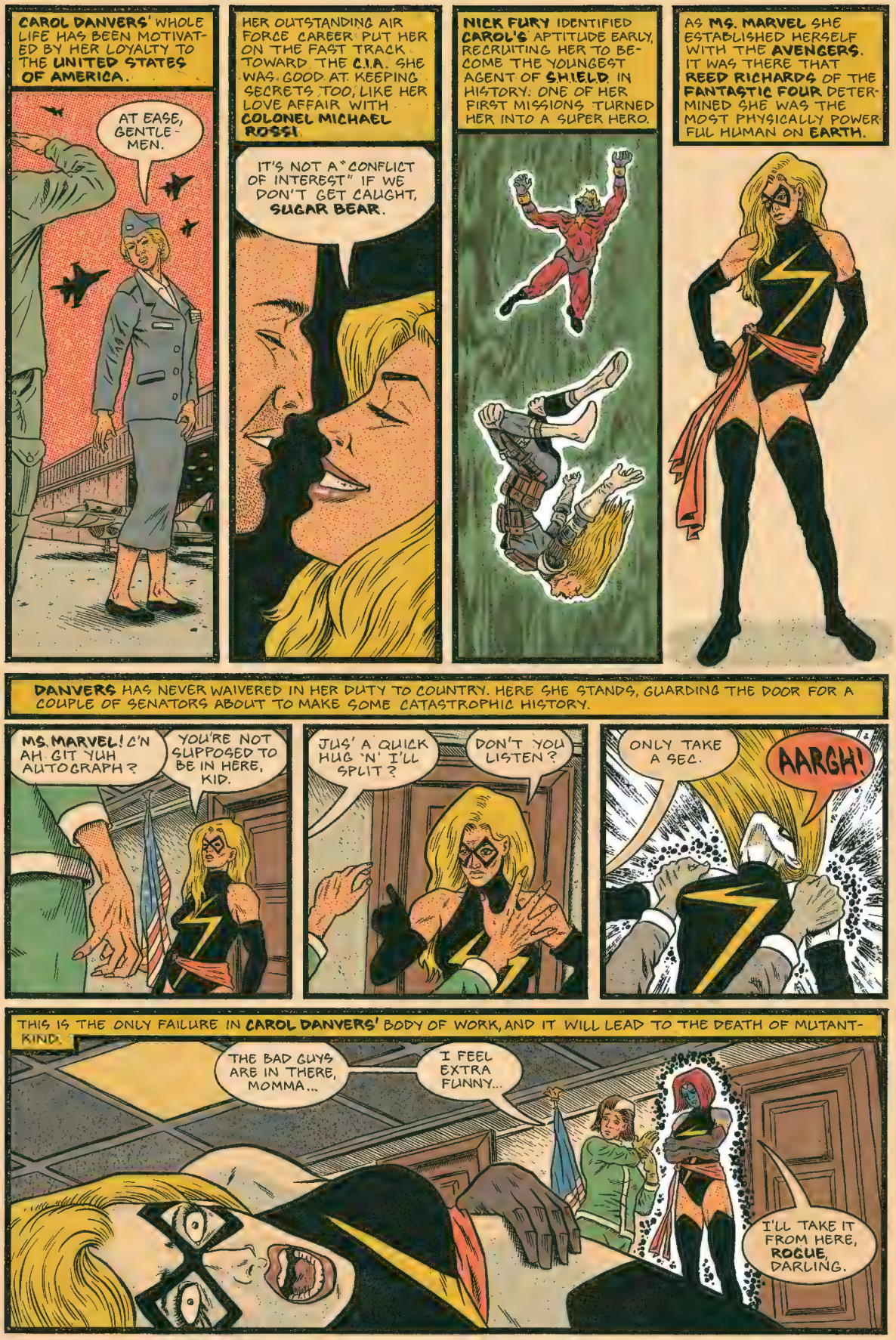
ON THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON...
OOOF!
WHO DARES?
STOP!
THE PHOENIX ... IS STILL INSIDE ME, SCOTT. SHE IS TORMENTING ME.
I MUST STOP BEING SO SELFISH. IF SHE REGAINS CONTROL, THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE IS AT RISK.
WHA?
JEAN? I CAN'T MOVE! WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
I HAVE THE BLOOD OF TRILLIONS ON MY CONSCIENCE, AND THE DARK PART OF MYSELF ENJOYS IT. I'M SO SCARED.
I LOVE YOU, SCOTT...
...BUT, FOR THE GOOD OF ALL CREATION...
AAAAAH!!
NOOO!!
JEAN!
HOW COULD YOU ...>sob<

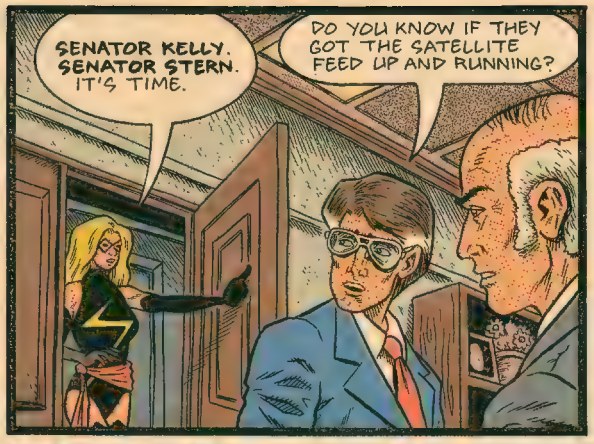
ONCE ALL MAJOR INTERGALACTIC LEADERS ARE SATISFIED THAT PHOENIX'S SELF-DESTRUCTION WASN'T A SHAM OF SOME KIND, THE X-MEN ARE PROJECTED BACK HOME TO ENGAGE IN CUSTOMARY MOURNING RITUALS.
JEAN GREY'S PARENTS ACCEPT HER DEATH, BUT THEY DON'T POSSESS THE FACILITY TO UNDERSTAND THE REASONS WHY.
MR. GREY, I...
YOU DID ALL YOU COULD, SCOTT.
PROFESSOR, I NEED TO TAKE SOME TIME AWAY. I'M NOT SURE WHEN I'LL BE BACK.
I - I... UNDERSTAND.
GOODBYE.
MR., MRS. GREY, PLEASE ACCEPT MY CONDOLENCES. JEAN WILL FOREVER BE CELEBRATED ACROSS THE GALAXY AS A HERO FOR HER...VALOR.
WHAT IS THIS ?
WHEN HOLDING THIS CRYSTAL YOU WILL FEEL JEAN'S ESSENSE...HER SPIRIT.
MY GOD! IT'S UNREAL !!!
AT THE PRECISE MOMENT OF THE FUNERAL...
A COCOON GESTATES IN THE DEPTHS OF LONG ISLAND'S JAMAICA BAY.
A NEW STUDENT ARRIVES, ON TIME, TO A LOCKED AND VACANT XAVIER SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS...
I'LL JUST WALK THROUGH THIS STUPID DOOR...

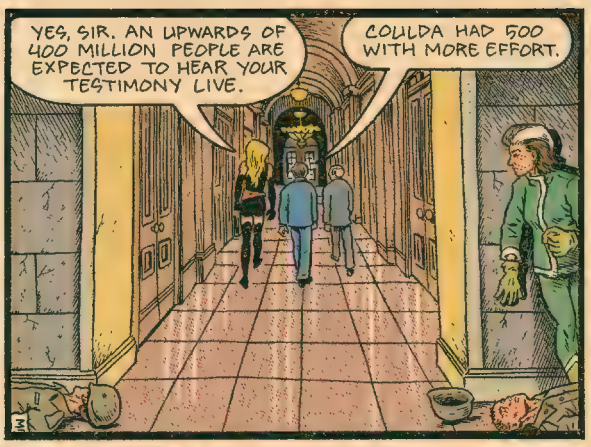
ARTHUR ADAMS

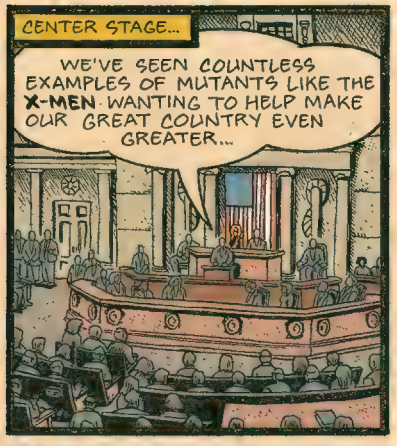
EPISODE 4
ED
PISKOR
2017

UXM-5
A MUTANT
MASTERWORK
by JOE MADUREIRA
& HARRY CANDELARIO

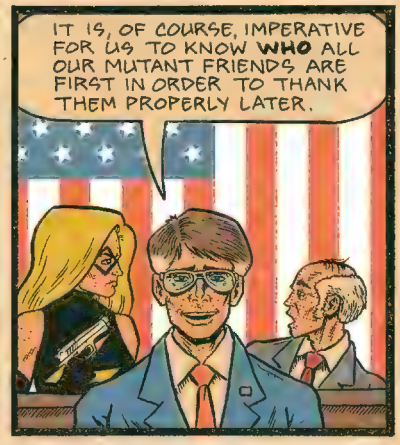

CAROL DANVERS' WHOLE LIFE HAS BEEN MOTIVATED BY HER LOYALTY TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
AT EASE, GENTLEMEN.
HER OUTSTANDING AIR FORCE CAREER PUT HER ON THE FAST TRACK TOWARD THE C.I.A. SHE WAS GOOD AT KEEPING SECRETS TOO, LIKE HER LOVE AFFAIR WITH COLONEL MICHAEL ROSSI.
IT'S NOT A "CONFLICT OF INTEREST" IF WE DON'T GET CAUGHT, SUGAR BEAR.
NICK FURY IDENTIFIED CAROL'S APTITUDE EARLY, RECRUITING HER TO BECOME THE YOUNGEST AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. IN HISTORY. ONE OF HER FIRST MISSIONS TURNED HER INTO A SUPER HERO.
AS MS. MARVEL SHE ESTABLISHED HERSELF WITH THE AVENGERS. IT WAS THERE THAT REED RICHARDS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR DETERMINED SHE WAS THE MOST PHYSICALLY POWERFUL HUMAN ON EARTH.
DANVERS HAS NEVER WAIVERED IN HER DUTY TO COUNTRY. HERE SHE STANDS, GUARDING THE DOOR FOR A COUPLE OF SENATORS ABOUT TO MAKE SOME CATASTROPHIC HISTORY.
MS. MARVEL! C'N AH GIT YUH AUTOGRAPH?
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE IN HERE, KID.
JUS' A QUICK HUG 'N' I'LL SPLIT?
DON'T YOU LISTEN?
ONLY TAKE A SEC.
AARGH!
THIS IS THE ONLY FAILURE IN CAROL DANVERS' BODY OF WORK, AND IT WILL LEAD TO THE DEATH OF MUTANT-KIND.
THE BAD GUYS ARE IN THERE, MOMMA...
I FEEL EXTRA FUNNY...
I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE, ROGUE, DARLING.

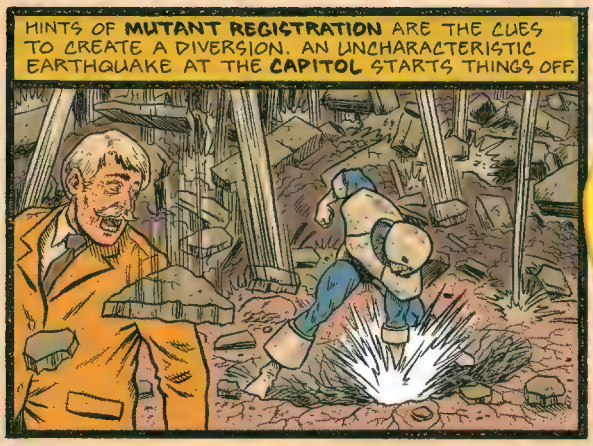

SENATOR KELLY. SENATOR STERN. IT'S TIME.
DO YOU KNOW IF THEY GOT THE SATELLITE FEED UP AND RUNNING?

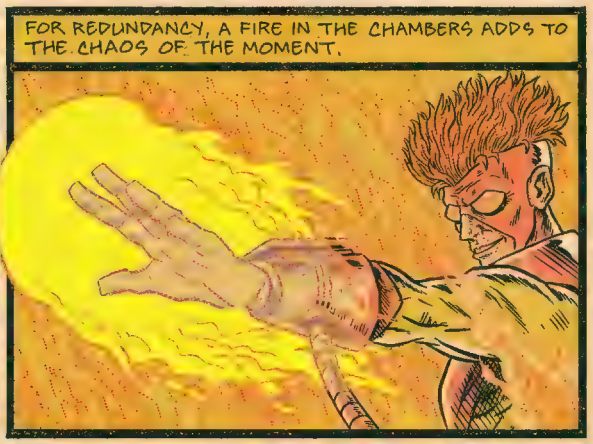

YES, SIR. AN UPWARDS OF 400 MILLION PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO HEAR YOUR TESTIMONY LIVE.
COULDA HAD 500 WITH MORE EFFORT.

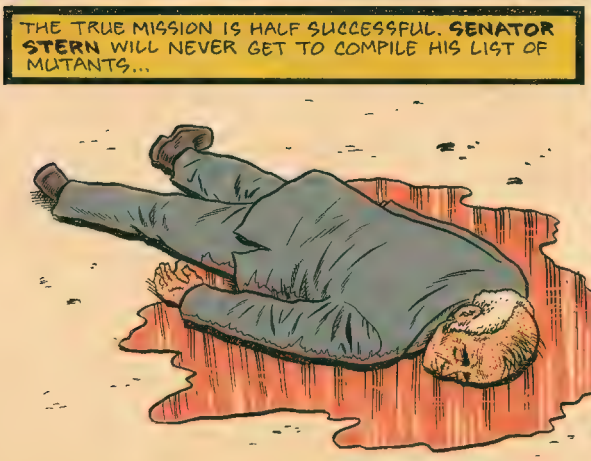

CENTER STAGE...
WE'VE SEEN COUNTLESS EXAMPLES OF MUTANTS LIKE THE X-MEN WANTING TO HELP MAKE OUR GREAT COUNTRY EVEN GREATER...

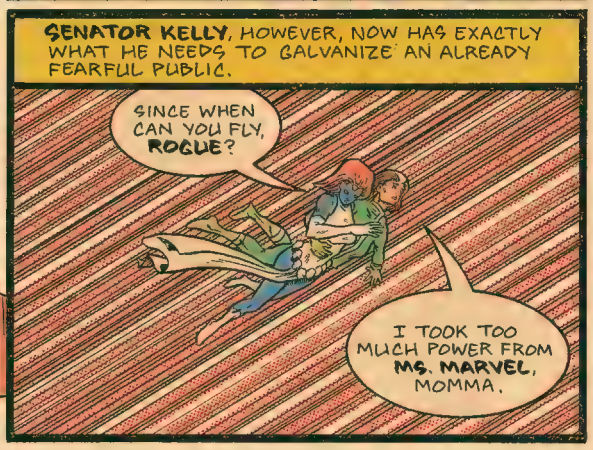
...SENATOR STERN AND I PUT ASIDE PARTISAN DIFFERENCES AND CAME UP WITH A PLAN TO INCENTIVIZE ALL OUR NATION'S GIFTED AND SPECIAL CITIZENS TO CONTINUE A TREND OF THIS GOOD SERVICE...


IT IS, OF COURSE, IMPERATIVE FOR US TO KNOW WHO ALL OUR MUTANT FRIENDS ARE FIRST IN ORDER TO THANK THEM PROPERLY LATER.

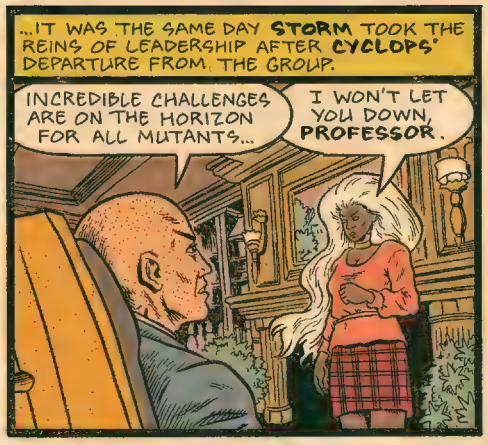

HINTS OF MUTANT REGISTRATION ARE THE CLUES TO CREATE A DIVERSION. AN UNCHARACTERISTIC EARTHQUAKE AT THE CAPITOL STARTS THINGS OFF.


FOR REDUNDANCY, A FIRE IN THE CHAMBERS ADDS TO THE CHAOS OF THE MOMENT.

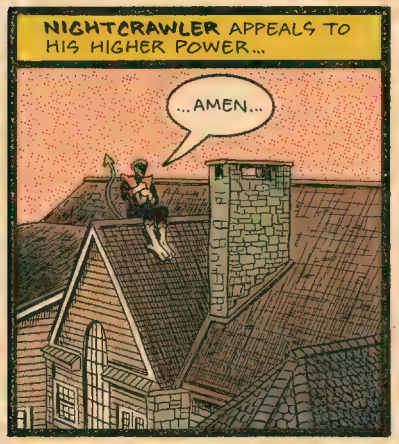

THE TRUE MISSION IS HALF SUCCESSFUL. SENATOR STERN WILL NEVER GET TO COMPILE HIS LIST OF MUTANTS...


SENATOR KELLY, HOWEVER, NOW HAS EXACTLY WHAT HE NEEDS TO GALVANIZE AN ALREADY FEARFUL PUBLIC.
SINCE WHEN CAN YOU FLY, ROGUE?
I TOOK TOO MUCH POWER FROM MS. MARVEL, MOMMA.

THE X-MEN ALL REMEMBER THE DAY OF THE ASSASSINATION QUITE CLEARLY...

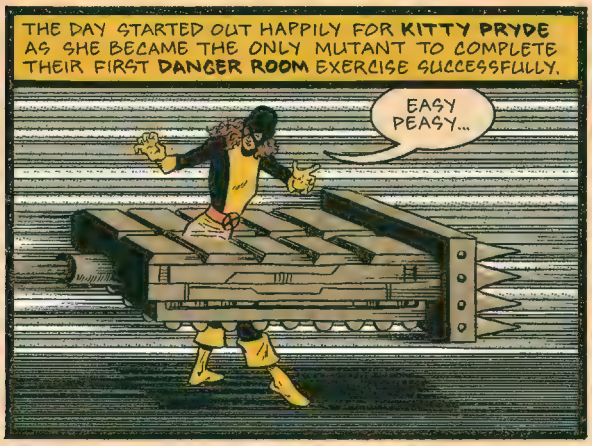

...IT WAS THE SAME DAY STORM TOOK THE REINS OF LEADERSHIP AFTER CYCLOPS' DEPARTURE FROM THE GROUP.
INCREDIBLE CHALLENGES ARE ON THE HORIZON FOR ALL MUTANTS...
I WON'T LET YOU DOWN, PROFESSOR.

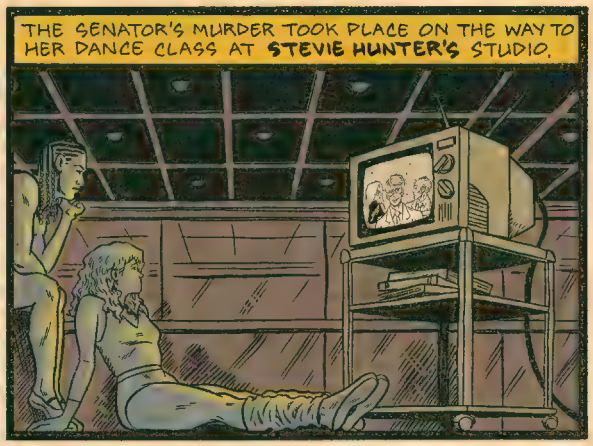
A HOMESICK PETER RASPUTIN'S YOUNG SISTER, ILLYANA, WAS VISITING THE MANSION.
<BUT I DON'T WANNA GO HOME EARLY, PETER.>*
<IT WILL BE SAFER FOR YOU.>
* TRANSLATED FROM RUSSIAN.

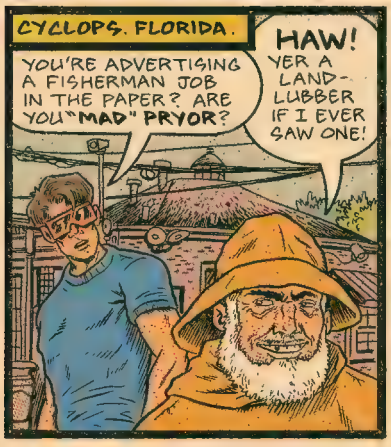

NIGHTCRAWLER APPEALS TO HIS HIGHER POWER...
...AMEN...

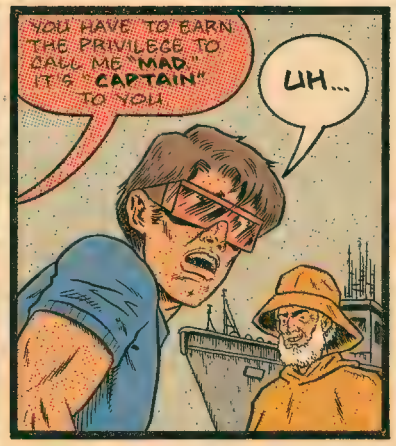
WOLVERINE PROPOSED TO MARIKO YASHIDA DAYS AFTER MURDERING HER CRIME LORD FATHER...
<...GONNA HAVE TO LEAVE JAPAN FOR A MITE, DARLIN'...>*
* TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE.

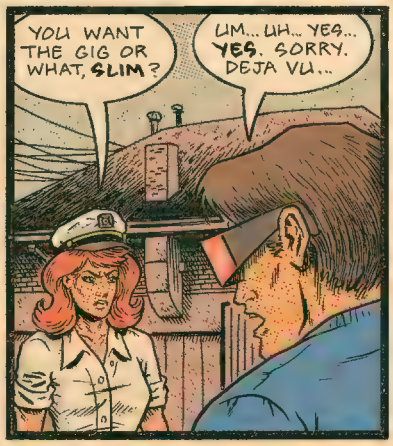
<... THE USA IS GONNA START BUILDIN' PROFILES ON MUTIES AN' THERE'S SOME SENSITIVE STUFF ABOUT ME SITTIN' ON THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S COMPUTERS...>


THE DAY STARTED OUT HAPPILY FOR KITTY PRYDE AS SHE BECAME THE ONLY MUTANT TO COMPLETE THEIR FIRST DANGER ROOM EXERCISE SUCCESSFULLY.
EASY PEASY...


THE SENATOR'S MURDER TOOK PLACE ON THE WAY TO HER DANCE CLASS AT STEVIE HUNTER'S STUDIO.


CYCLOPS. FLORIDA.
YOU'RE ADVERTISING A FISHERMAN JOB IN THE PAPER? ARE YOU "MAD" PRYOR?
HAW! YER A LAND-LUBBER IF I EVER SAW ONE!

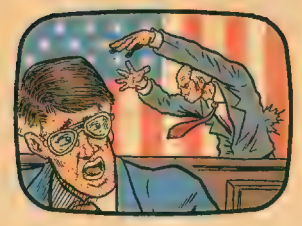

YOU HAVE TO EARN THE PRIVILEGE TO CALL ME "MAD." IT'S "CAPTAIN" TO YOU.
UH...


YOU WANT THE GIG OR WHAT, SLIM?
UM... UH... YES... YES. SORRY. DEJA VU...

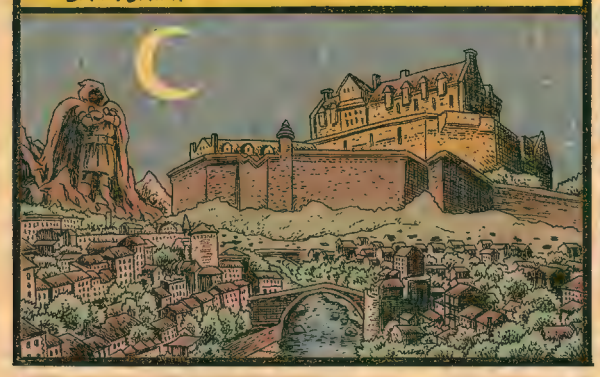
THE FOOTAGE BECAME MORE ANALYZED THAN THE **ZAPRUDER** FILM.

THERE WAS NO QUESTION THAT SUPERHUMANS WERE BEHIND THE ASSASSINATION.

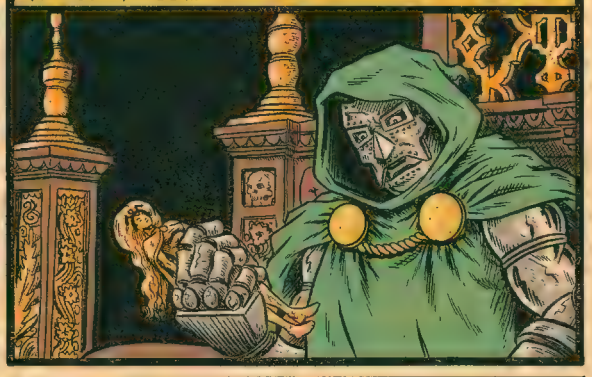
WITHOUT CONCLUSIVE PROOF, THE PROPAGANDA MACHINE OF THE **U.S.** GOVERNMENT SPUN A NARRATIVE THAT MUTANTS ORCHESTRATED THE PLOT.



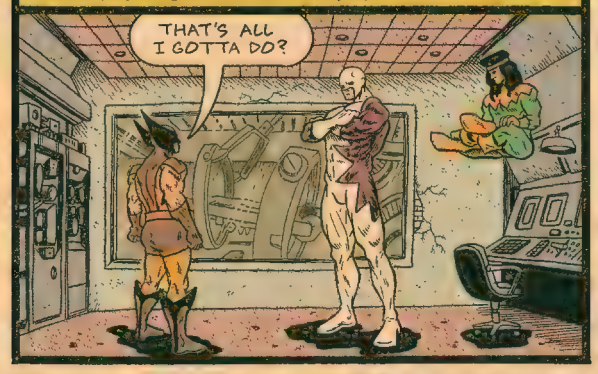
ANTI-MUTANT HYSTERIA SWEEPS THE GLOBE, INCLUDING THE TINY **BALKAN** COUNTRY OF **LATVERIA**.



THEIR DESPOTIC RULER, **DR. DOOM**, KNOWS THIS FEAR CAN BE VERY ADVANTAGEOUS ON THE WORLD STAGE...

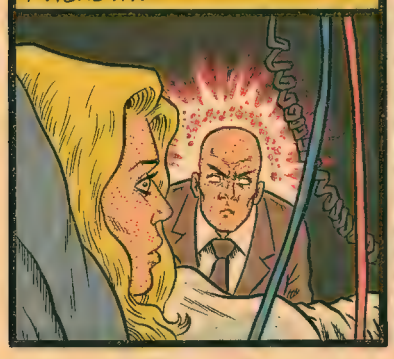


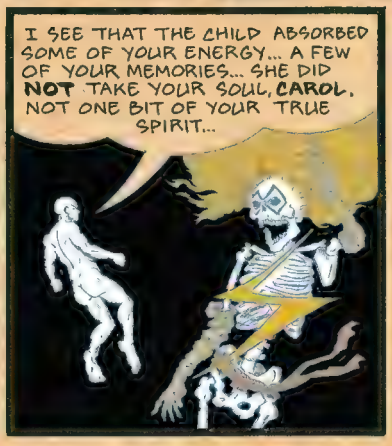
IN **CANADA**, **WOLVERINE** MAKES AN AGREEMENT WITH **ALPHA FLIGHT** TO EXPUNGE ALL OF HIS RECORDS FROM THEIR GOVERNMENT FILES.



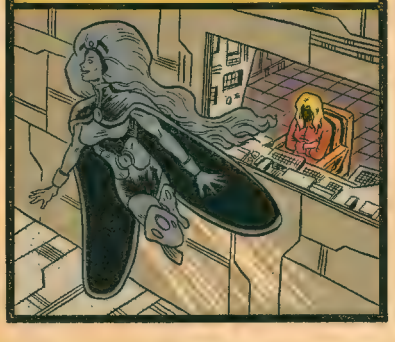
BOTH PARTIES HOLD UP THEIR ENDS OF THE DEAL.

THE **AVENGERS** BRING **CAROL** TO **PROFESSOR X** AS A LAST RESORT TO PULL HER FROM CATATONIC PSYCHOSIS.





WHEN AWOKEN, **EARTH'S** STRONGEST HUMAN, **CAROL DANVERS**, COULD BARELY EVEN SHUFFLE TO THE BATHROOM WITHOUT ASSISTANCE.



KITTY PRYDE IS OFTEN REMINDED THAT SHE'S MERELY A PROBATIONARY MEMBER OF THE X-MEN.
BEING ALONE AT THIS MANSION IS SO FREAKY...
feh.
WHY DOES PROFESSOR X WANT ME TO LEARN SO MUCH ABOUT THE DUMB BLACKBIRD JET ANYHOW? I DON'T WANNA BE A PILOT. UGH!
...WON'T LET ME GO ON THEIR STUPID SECRET MISSION. >GRUMBLE grumble<
KITTY IS MISTAKEN TO THINK SHE'S BY HERSELF ON THIS WINTER DAY.
MONTHS AGO WHEN THE TEAM CAME BACK FROM OUTER SPACE, A STOWAWAY JOINED THE X-MEN.
IT'S KITTY'S LUCK THAT THE ALIEN SPORE CHOOSES THIS MOMENT TO MATURE.
OH SNAP!
AAAH!
KITTY WILL NEVER AGAIN QUESTION THE ACADEMIC RUBRIC OF THE XAVIER SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS.
FRY, SUCKER!
THAT NIGHT, A RECUPERATING CAROL DANVERS BRINGS KITTY A SURPRISE...
MOM! DADDY!
HAPPY HANUKKAH, LITTLE ONE.
DRAFTY IN HERE.

WHAT **KITTY PRYDE** DOESN'T KNOW IS THAT MANY OF THE **X-MEN'S** CLOSEST CONFIDANTS HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED AND HER PARENTS ARE BEING WAREHOUSED AT THE MANSION FOR THEIR SAFETY.

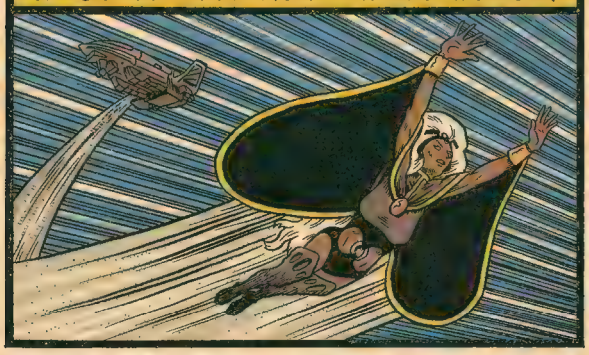
MOIRA MacTAGGERT

ILLYANA RASPUTIN

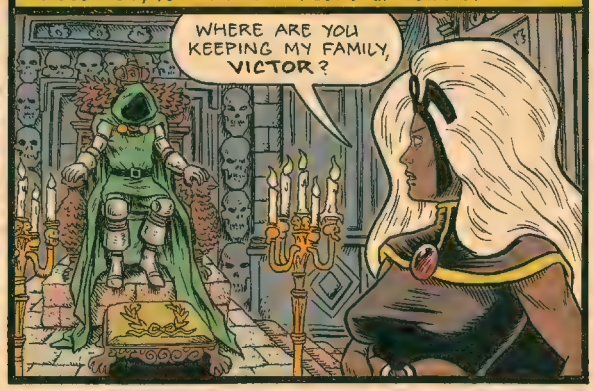
STEVIE HUNTER

MARIKO YAGHIDA

STORM RECEIVES A THREAT IN THE FORM OF AN INVITE TO **DR. DOOM'S** CASTLE. SHE ARRIVES NEAR THE EASTERN BORDER OF **LATVERIA** WHILE THE **X-MEN** TEST THEIR STEALTH TOWARD THE WEST.



SHE MEETS NO RESISTANCE UPON ENTRY TO **DOOM'S** DWELLINGS, YET **STORM** KEEPS CAUTIOUS.



DR. DOOM'S GOAL IS REALIZED THE MOMENT **STORM** BREATHED THE AIR INSIDE THE CASTLE. UNSTABLE MOLECULES RENDER HER INTO A CHROMIUM STATUE WITH A HEARTBEAT.

AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION BACK IN **AMERICA**...

UNCHARACTERISTIC FOR THIS REGION, AN AGGRESSIVE TREMOR SHAKES **ROGUE** FROM HER NIGHTMARE...

INCONGRUOUS WEATHER CONDITIONS SWEEP THE GLOBE ALL AT ONCE...

NEW YORK CITY

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

WAKANDA

ORORO?

T'CHALLA, THE BLACK PANTHER, IS CORRECT IN HIS ASSUMPTION ABOUT THE METEOROLOGICAL SITUATION. HE'S BEEN WITH STORM DURING A CLAUSTROPHOBIC PANIC IN THE PAST.

DR. DOOM LEARNS THE HARD WAY THAT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO TAME A GODDESS. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE X-MEN FREE THEIR LOVED ONES WITH NO TROUBLE AND HEAD HOME.

UNCHARTED TERRITORY SOMEWHERE IN THE MID-ATLANTIC...

MADELYNE, ARE YOU OKAY?

WHY ARE YOU HOLDING YOUR FACE LIKE THAT, SCOTT? WHAT HAPPENED?

SCOTT? JEAN? WELCOME TO MY HUMBLE ISLAND. IT'S NICE TO HAVE VISITORS. OPEN YOUR EYES HERE, CYCLOPS. IT'S NOT A PROBLEM...

JEAN?

CYCLOPS?

WHAT GIVES?

POST-MISSION. BACK AT WHAT'S LEFT STANDING OF THE **XAVIER SCHOOL**.

THIS DIVISIVE RHETORIC WILL BE EXPLOITED BY THOSE WHO'D CAUSE US THE MOST HARM.

DAILY BUGLE
MUTANTS! FRIEND OR FOE?

I'M NERVOUS THAT **MAGNETO** HAS BEEN RADIO SILENT FOR SO LONG...

CHARLES SUGGESTS THE **X-MEN** REVISIT **MAGNETO'S** VOLCANO BASE FOR CLUES TO HIS WHEREABOUTS...

CAN I GO?

ABSOLUTELY NOT! ...AND WHAT IS THIS COSTUME ABOUT, YOUNG LADY?

DO YOU GUYS SMELL 'AT?

COMIN' FROM THIS LOCKER...

MAYBE I'LL **STAB** IT?

NO!

WHILE ENTERING THE BASE...

> Sniff Sniff <

I'M VERY DISAPPOINTED IN YOU, **KITTY**.

STAY CLOSE. STAY QUIET.

THE TEAM DOESN'T FIND MUCH INFORMATION ABOUT **MAGNETO** BUT THEY DO DISCOVER THAT THEY'RE NOT ALONE...

...MY HOME!

STORM!

BAD MOVE, BUB!

SNIKT!

NO, LOGAN!

KITTY'S PRESENCE BECOMES FORTUITOUS...

...IT WAS A LIVING BEING, **LOGAN**...

WHEN'D YA LEARN TO WALK ON AIR, KID?

THE PROF TAUGHT ME.

IT'S LIKE STAIRS.

Uhhhh...

THE **MID-ATLANTIC**...

HOW IS MY OPTIC BLAST SUPPRESSED ON THIS ISLAND?

NOW, **CYCLOPS**. I WOULDN'T WANT TO MAKE IT TOO EASY FOR **CHARLES** TO SEE WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING HERE...

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER'S DEATHS, **MAGNETO** AIMS EACH COUNTRY'S NUCLEAR ARSENAL UPON ITSELF, DEMANDING TOTAL SUBMISSION OR DEATH.

THE ISLAND'S MUTANT-SUPPRESSION DEVICE WAS PENETRATED BY **CEREBRO** DUE TO THE MASSIVE EXERTION OF **MAGNETO'S** POWERS, PINPOINTING HIS LOCATION.

THE MUTANT POWERS OF THE **X-MEN** ARE IMPOTENT ON THE ISLAND UNTIL **KITTY PRYDE**, THE MOST COMPUTER LITERATE OF THE BUNCH, DISCOVERS THE CULPRIT.

SIMPLE AS THAT...

...I THINK.

CYCLOPS' OPTIC BLAST KICKS BACK IN RIGHT AWAY...

SCOTT! JEAN? WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

WHO IS THIS **JEAN**?

DID I... HURT ANYONE?

OOF!

KATYA!

MAGNETO DOESN'T RECOGNIZE THIS NEW **X-MAN**. HE SWOOPS DOWN FOR A CLOSER LOOK.

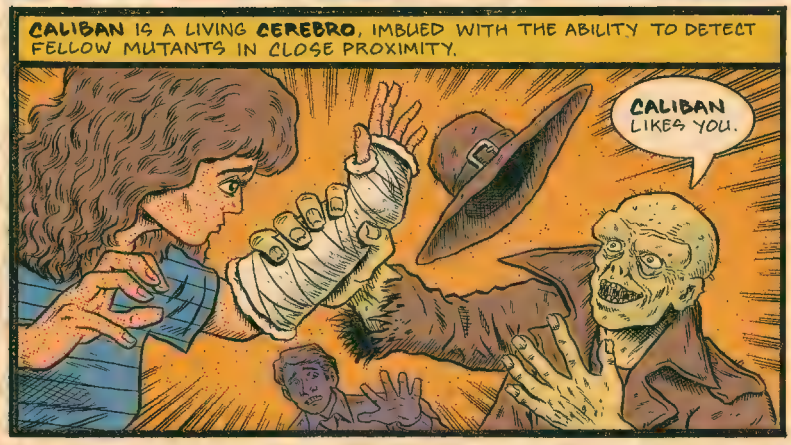
MY GOD... JUST... A **CHILD**...

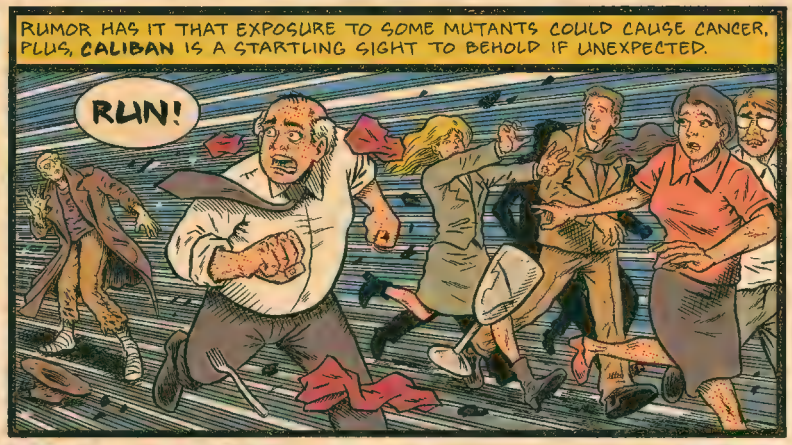
magneto...

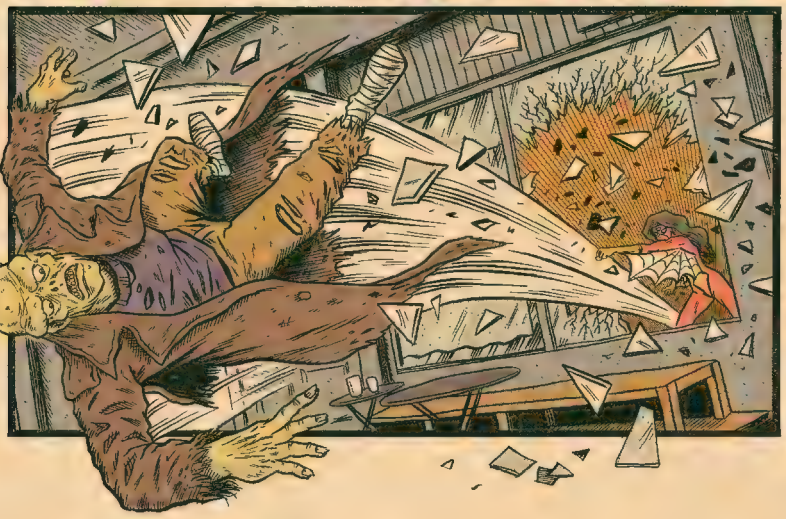
I'm ...placing you...

...under arrest...

BACK IN **NEW YORK**...







THE GOVERNMENT IS INVESTING HEAVILY IN DEVISING A WAY TO STOP FUTURE ACTS OF MUTANT TERRORISM.

UNCLE SAM IS CURIOUS TO SEE WHAT KINDA GOODIES YOU GOT COOKIN', **FORGE**.

IN THEORY, ONE BLAST FROM THIS PEASHOOTER SHOULD PERMANENTLY WIPE OUT ANY MUTIE'S SPECIAL ABILITIES AND LEAVE THEM OTHERWISE UNHARMED.

SECRETLY, **FORGE** IS HIMSELF A MUTANT, WITH THE GIFT TO BUILD ALMOST ANYTHING HE IMAGINES.

ONE PROBLEM, **FURY**...

HOW DO I POSSIBLY TEST THIS GAT IN A HUMANE WAY?

FORGE'S CLIENTS ALL HAVE TWO THINGS IN COMMON, VERY DEEP POCKETS AND A NEED FOR DISCRETION...

CALL ME IF THE CHAIR GIVES YOU TROUBLE.

SOMETHING TELLS ME IT WILL BE JUST FINE...

UNDISCLOSED LOCATION...

STERN IS MORE DANGEROUS TO US DEAD THAN ALIVE.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THEY CAN STEAL OUR POWERS?

SPEAKING OF "STEALING POWERS"...

...WHERE IS MY **ROGUE**?

WHY DON'T YOU JOIN ME AND THE REST, DARLING?

I THINK I'M SICK, MOMMA. I DON'T SLEEP ANYMORE...

X-MANSION...

...SINCE YOU MENTION IT, I WONDER, DO YOU MISS IT, **CAROL**?

I LIVED MOST OF MY LIFE WITHOUT "SUPERPOWERS," **ORORO**. I WON'T PUT ENERGY INTO THINGS I CAN'T CONTROL...

I WILL SAY THIS, THOUGH, AND IT'S A PROMISE. IF I EVER SEE THE LITTLE GIRL WHO DID THIS TO ME...

... I MIGHT JUST KILL HER AND NO ONE WITH OR WITHOUT "SUPERPOWERS" WILL STOP ME.

MOST OF THE **X-MEN** APPROPRIATE **MAGNETO'S ATLANTEAN** ISLAND FORTRESS AS THEIR HOME BASE FOR THE TIME BEING...

YOU AN' THAT ALIEN SHER DID A NUMBER ON THE MANSION, YOUNG'UN...

SHUT UP, WOLVIE!

STORM AND **CYCLOPS** STAY BACK IN **WESTCHESTER** TO FACILITATE THE SCHOOL'S RECONSTRUCTION.

SHOULD WE TALK ABOUT THE LEADERSHIP POSITION, **SCOTT**?

HUH?

CORSAIR?

THIS PLACE IS A WRECK. AM I TOO LATE?

EXPLAIN YOURSELF, PIRATE.

REMEMBER **LILANDRA**? SHE'S BEEN KIDNAPPED AND THE **SHI'AR** THINK YOU'RE BEHIND IT IN RETALIATION FOR **PHOENIX**.

THEY'RE THREATENING TO DESTROY YOUR PLANET IF SHE'S NOT QUICKLY RECOVERED.

I'M SURPRISED YOU CARE ENOUGH TO WARN US.

WHEN **PHOENIX** PULLED US INSIDE THE **M'KRAAN CRYSTAL**, SHE WAS RUMMAGING THROUGH MY BRAIN. MY **EARTH** NAME IS **CHRISTOPHER SUMMERS, SCOTTY**...

AS IF ON CUE...

OH NO...

YOU'RE MY... FATHER?

IT... BURNS...

SIMULTANEOUSLY, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE **ATLANTIC**, THE **X-MEN** RECOGNIZE THIS SENSATION...

BEAMED ABOARD THE **SHI'AR** MOTHERSHIP, THE POLITICIANS REITERATE **LILANDRA'S** PLIGHT...

...YOU HAVE TWO DAYS, **EARTH**-TIME, TO BRING HER BACK HOME...

IN ORDER FOR THE **SHI'AR** TO RELEASE THE **X-MEN** BACK TO **EARTH**, TWO MEMBERS MUST STAY BEHIND AS COLLATERAL.

PHOOEY!

KITTY, THAT MACHINE CAN CHANGE YOUR OUTFIT?

CHARLES XAVIER HAD LONG AGO PSYCHICALLY BONDED HIMSELF WITH **LILANDRA**. HE SENSES THAT SHE IS NEARBY.

THE **X-MEN** WONDERED WHAT THAT "BUZZING" NOISE WAS IN THE DISTANCE...

IF THE BOROUGH OF **MANHATTAN** COULD SOMEHOW BRACE ITSELF FOR IMPACT, IT SURELY WOULD...

SLEAZOID!

WHERE IS **LILANDRA**?

DO THESE THINGS SPEAK?

OUT OF NOWHERE, A **DEATHBIRD** DEALS A DEATH-BLOW...

ULP!

SHE MADE OFF WITH **CHARLEY!**

CORSAIR TO **STARJAMMER**. BEAM US UP!

THE STARJAMMER'S PHYSICIAN, SIKORSKY, IS SKILLED FAR BEYOND THE LIMITS OF EARTHLY MEDICAL TREATMENT...
COLOSSUS ISN'T OUT OF THE WOODS YET.
NEITHER ARE WE. WHAT IS THAT THING?
"IT'S THE BROOD'S HOST HOME-WORLD."
WE'RE HIT!
THE X-MEN IMMEDIATELY HEAR FAMILIAR INCESSANT BUZZING ONCE THEIR SPACECRAFT IS EATEN...
X-MEN! LILANDRA AND I ARE HERE!
FOLLOW MY INSTRUCTION.
THE BATTLE BECOMES A DIVERSIONARY TACTIC FOR THE SUCCESSFUL RESCUE OF CHARLES XAVIER AND LILANDRA.
PETER, YOU... YOU'RE WELL ?
NEVER BETTER, PROFESSOR.
DEATHBIRD, WE HAD A DEAL.
SETTLE DOWN. WE'VE DAMAGED THE STARJAMMERS' SHIP ENOUGH TO SLOW THEM DOWN TO A CRAWL.
...THERE'S NO WAY LILANDRA WILL MAKE IT BACK BY THE COURT'S DEADLINE. YOU'LL STILL HAVE YOUR INTERGALACTIC LEGAL AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE THEM AND ANNIHILATE EARTH.
PROFESSOR X KNOWS THIS TO BE TRUE BUT HE'S NOT GOING TO LET A FEW LIGHT-YEARS' DISTANCE PREVENT HIM FROM TRYING TO STOP THE TRAITOROUS PLOT AGAINST ALL HE HOLDS DEAR...
KITTY!
NIGHTCRAWLER!

KITTY PUTS THE SHI'AR MOTHERSHIP'S GARMENT MACHINE TO STRATEGIC USE.

HOW DO I LOOK?

ARE YOU READY, KITTEN?

YOU DID THIS TO ME!

BAMF

YES! PRAY TO YOUR GODS!

BAMF

DARK PHOENIX!

...RISEN FROM THE ASHES! HA HA HA!

BAMF

UNREST AND PANIC SPREADS THROUGH THE VESSEL LIKE AN AGGRESSIVE DISEASE.

WHAT A GADGET!

I THINK... THAT RIDE MADE... ME... ULP!

BAMF!

LILANDRA ARRIVES HOME TO AN ARMY WHO SURELY WELCOMES A MORALE BOOST. THE X-MEN, EARTH AND THE STARJAMMERS REMAIN INTACT...

WHERE ARE THE DOUBLE-CROSSERS?

SHE BURSTS INTO THE CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS...

...ONE WAY TO AVOID A COURT-MARTIAL.

DEATHBIRD IS STILL OUT THERE...

BACK ON THE STARJAMMER, SIKORSKY HAS BEEN WORKING DAY AND NIGHT...

XAVIER PUSHED FAR BEYOND HIS MENTAL LIMITS. I CAN'T HELP HIM...

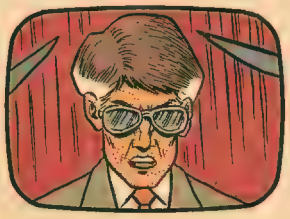
ABOVE MY PAY GRADE, I CONFESS.

"MY FELLOW **AMERICANS**, I CONFESS THAT I WAS CLEARLY WRONG ABOUT THE **X-MEN**..."

"ON THE FATEFUL DAY WE LOST **SENATOR STERN** TO A BAND OF MUTANT TERRORISTS, I PREVIOUSLY SUGGESTED THE **X-MEN** WERE DO-GOODERS..."

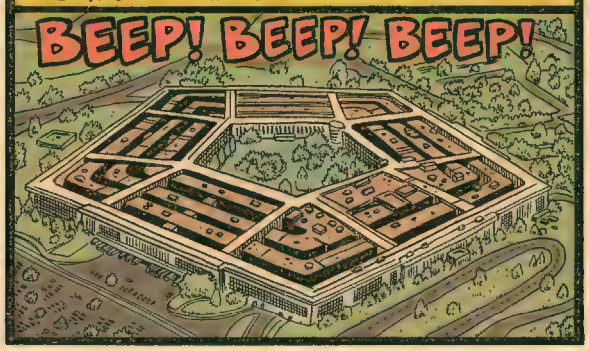
"...DECIMATING AN ENTIRE **NEW YORK CITY** BLOCK TO RUBBLE WEEKS AGO WAS A SURE SIGN OF THEIR EXTREMIST POINT OF VIEW..."

"REMEMBER **NAMOR**? I FEAR WE NOW HAVE A WHOLE TEAM OF **SUB-MARINERS** TO CONTEND WITH..."

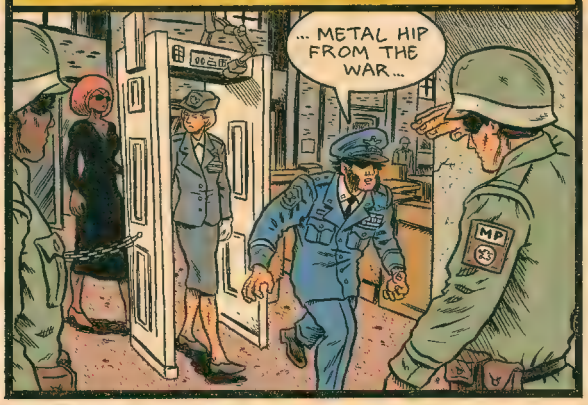


CAROL DANVERS MAY NO LONGER BE A SUPER HERO, BUT HER **SHIELD** CREDENTIALS STILL AFFORD HER THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF TOP-SECRET CLEARANCE IN **U.S.** GOVERNMENT.

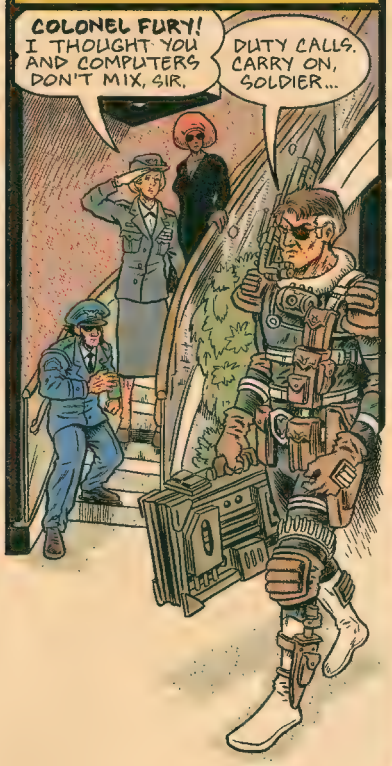
BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!



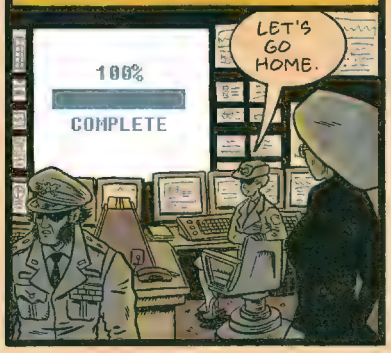
SHE FORGES SIMILAR ACCESS FOR HER COMPATRIOTS...



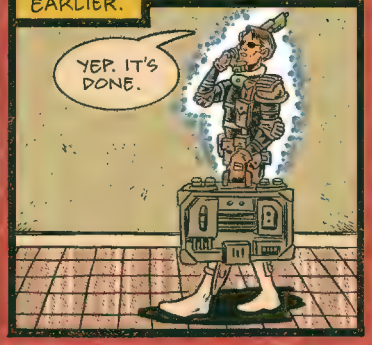
THE DOOR OUTSIDE THE MAIN-FRAME COMPUTER HUB CONTAINING ALL OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST CLASSIFIED INFORMATION...



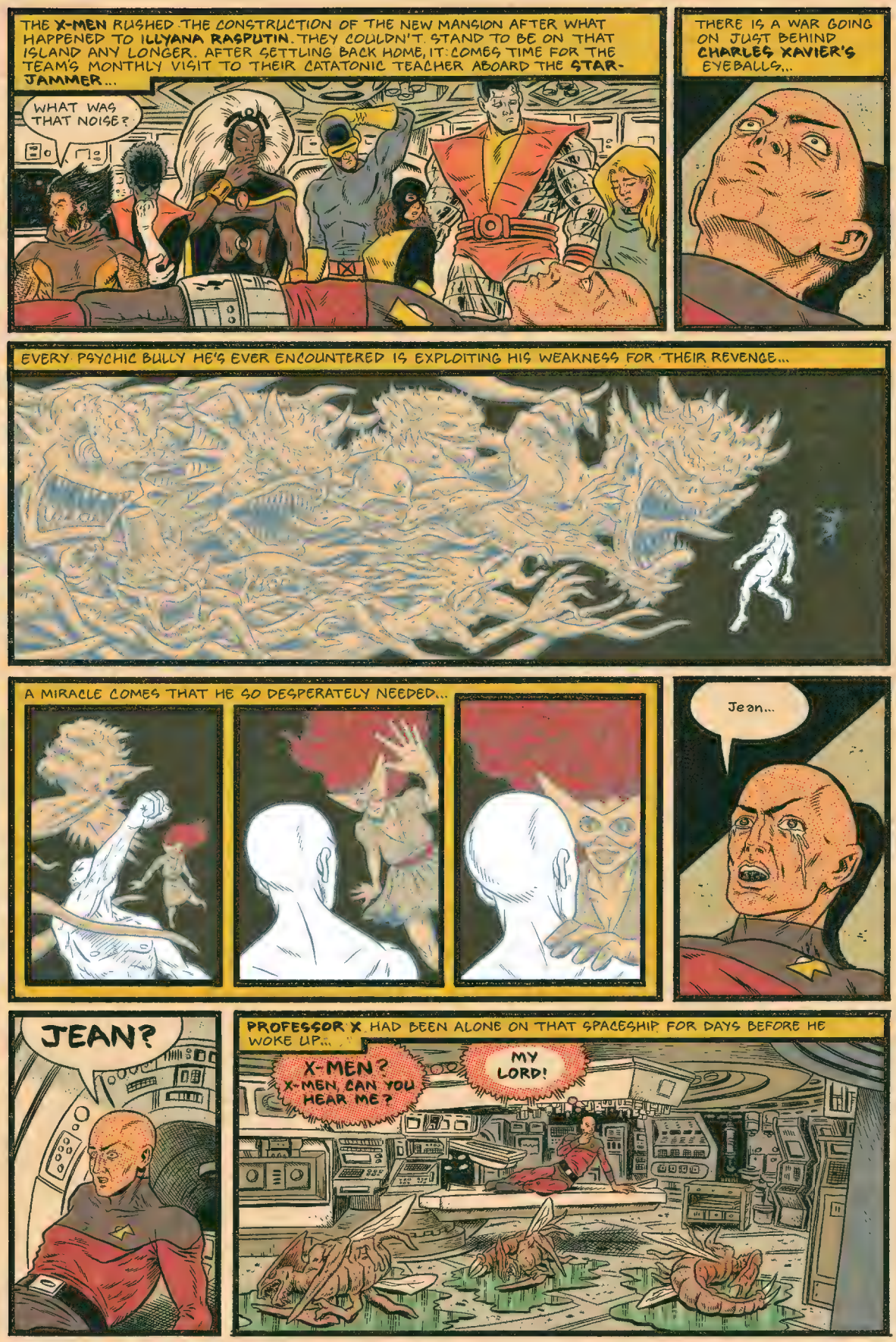
THE OBJECTIVE IS TO WIPE OUT EVERY PIECE OF **X-MEN** DATA FROM THE VAST GOVERNMENT NETWORK.



A SIMILAR TASK WAS PERFORMED JUST A FEW MINUTES EARLIER.

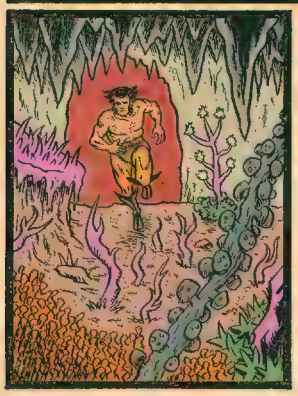


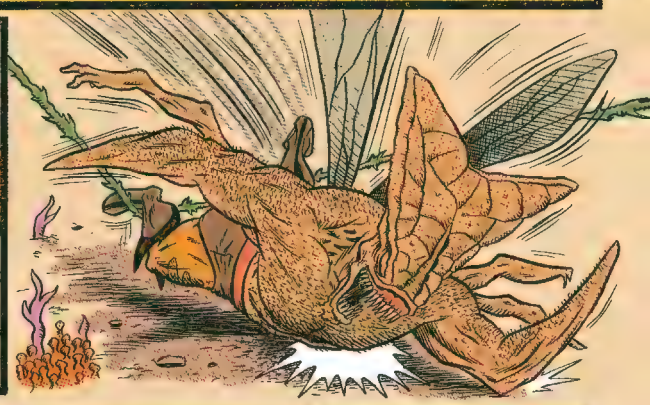
THE X-MEN CONTINUE TO OCCUPY MAGNETO'S ISLAND FORTRESS WHILE THEY WAIT FOR THE STARJAMMERS TO REPORT ON CHARLES XAVIER'S HEALTH...
HA HA! YAY!
THEY THOUGHT IT WOULD BE SAFE FOR ILLYANA TO COME VISIT HERE WHILE THE MANSION GETS REBUILT.
HUH?
LITTLE BEAUTY... HELLO THERE
THIS IS THE DAY THAT PETER RASPUTIN LOSES HIS 5-YEAR-OLD SISTER FOREVER.
HEY!
RIGHT THIS WAY, DARLING.
ILLYANA!
AAAAAH!!!
THE GROUND... IT JUST SWALLOWED HER UP!
QUIT TALKIN'! C'MON!
THE FIRST SILENCE WITHIN THE MYSTERIOUS CITADEL SINCE MAGNETO RESURRECTED THE STRUCTURE FROM ITS AQUATIC DEPTHS...
I CONFESS, MY VISION DID NOT EXTEND INTO LIMBO DURING THIS ENCOUNTER...
IT SEEMED LIKE THE X-MEN WERE ONLY GONE FOR SECONDS...
ILLYANA RASPUTIN WAS THE LAST TO COME BACK FROM BELASCO'S MIDDLE-WORLD.
SOMETHING CLEARLY HAPPENED INSIDE THAT PORTAL BEYOND OUR CURRENT UNDERSTANDING OF SPACE AND TIME...
ILL... ILLYANA?
WHAT TOOK YOU GUYS SO LONG?
I COULD HAVE USED YOUR HELP IN THERE AGAINST THOSE DEMONS!


THE X-MEN RUSHED THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW MANSION AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO ILLYANA RASPUTIN. THEY COULDN'T STAND TO BE ON THAT ISLAND ANY LONGER. AFTER SETTLING BACK HOME, IT COMES TIME FOR THE TEAM'S MONTHLY VISIT TO THEIR CATATONIC TEACHER ABOARD THE STAR-JAMMER...
WHAT WAS THAT NOISE?
THERE IS A WAR GOING ON JUST BEHIND CHARLES XAVIER'S EYEBALLS...
EVERY PSYCHIC BULLY HE'S EVER ENCOUNTERED IS EXPLOITING HIS WEAKNESS FOR THEIR REVENGE...
A MIRACLE COMES THAT HE SO DESPERATELY NEEDED...
Jean...
JEAN?
PROFESSOR X HAD BEEN ALONE ON THAT SPACESHIP FOR DAYS BEFORE HE WOKE UP...
X-MEN? X-MEN, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
MY LORD!

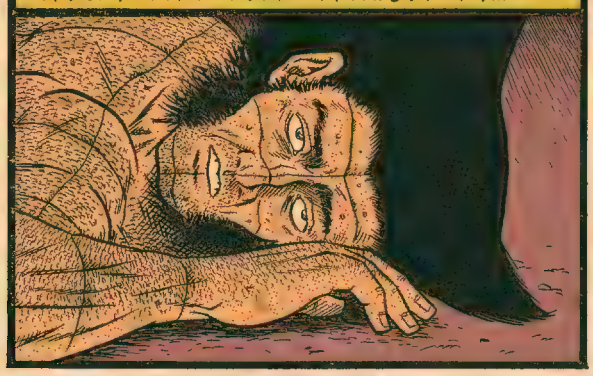
AS **XAVIER** FINDS TRANSPORTATION TO BEAM HIMSELF BACK TO **EARTH**, THE DOMINATING BELIEF IN HIS MIND IS THAT THE **X-MEN** ARE DEFINITELY STILL ALIVE SOMEWHERE IN THE UNIVERSE. HE'S GOING TO NEED HELP, BUT HE HAS EXPERIENCE IN BUILDING STRONG TEAMS FROM SCRATCH FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE...

THE **BROOD** FIND THE UNCANNY **X-MEN** TO BE HEALTHY, VIABLE INCUBATORS FOR THEIR PARASITIC LARVAE...

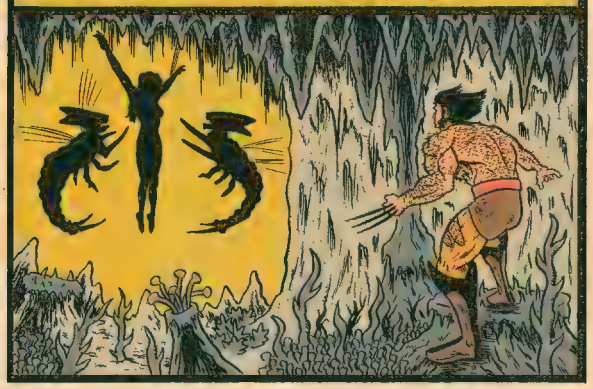




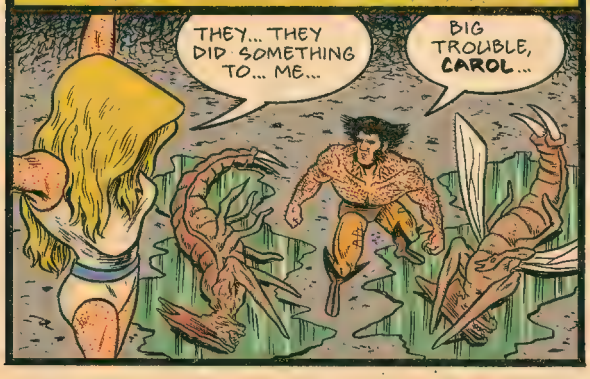
WOLVERINE'S MUTANT HEALING FACTOR WORKS OVERTIME TO PURGE THE ALIEN EGG BEFORE HIS LAST BIT OF HUMANITY FADES AWAY...

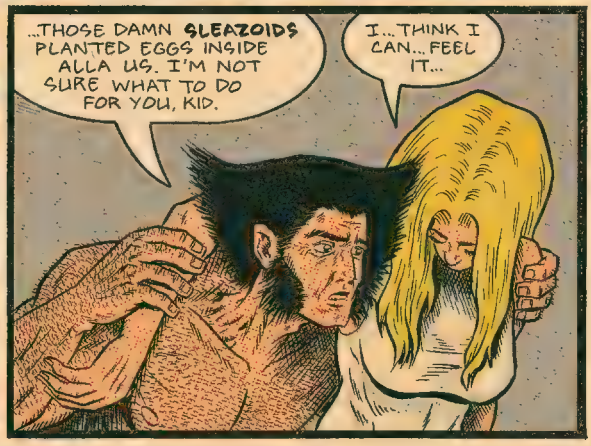


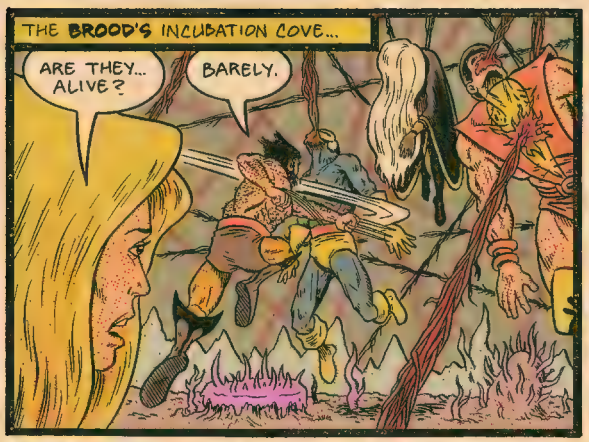
A COMMOTION IN THE DISTANCE ATTRACTS **LOGAN** TO THIS LOCATION...



CAROL DANVERS' BIOLOGICAL MAKEUP IS MORE ALIEN IN ORIGIN THAN THE **X-MEN'S**. THE **BROOD** BROUGHT HER HERE FOR A CLOSER EXAMINATION.





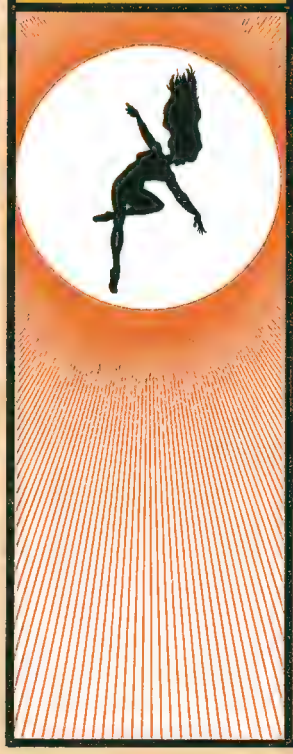

THE BROOD'S INCUBATION COVE...
ARE THEY... ALIVE?
BARELY.

C'MON, KITTY. EASY DOES IT.

STORM, BABY. YOU BREATHIN'?
...Mmm...

AAAAAAAAAH!

STORM'S LOGICAL MIND HAS BEEN COMPLETELY CONSUMED BY THE OFFSPRING OF THE BROOD QUEEN. SHE, HOWEVER, STILL HAS INSTINCT TO RELY ON...


THE HOMEWORLD OF THE BROOD HAS AN ATMOSPHERE, AN ENVIRONMENT, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, WEATHER SHE CAN MANIPULATE...

HARNESSING ALL OF THIS DOMAIN'S SOLAR RADIATION BOILS THE EGG FROM STORM'S GUTS.
WE WERE LUCKY, 'RORO. BUT WHAT ABOUT OUR PALS?

AS A FIRST STEP, THE EMBRYO DISPLACES VITAL ORGANS INSIDE THE HOST BEFORE ITS ROOTS TAKE HOLD...

UGH!

...THEN THE PARASITE ABSORBS ALL OF THE HOST'S PRECIOUS BODILY FLUIDS FROM WITHIN TO COMPLETE THE TRANSFORMATION INTO A **BROOD**...

AW, MAN.

ARGH!

EEEEE...

THE **KREE** DNA THAT PARTLY MAKES UP **CAROL DANVERS** REJECTS THE EGG, BUT NOT WITHOUT CONSEQUENCE...

THE FOREIGN SUBSTANCE TRIGGERS A METAMORPHOSIS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF **CAROL** THAT SENDS SHOCKWAVES TO THE EDGES OF THE GALAXY...

EeEEE...

EEEEEE...

EEEEE...

EEEEEE...

THE POWER SHE GENERATES FROM THE NEAREST STAR SYSTEM EXPELS THE **BROOD** EGGS FROM THE REST OF THE TEAM...

>Hurm...<

Hey... little guy....

MEIN GOTT, CAROL?

MMM...

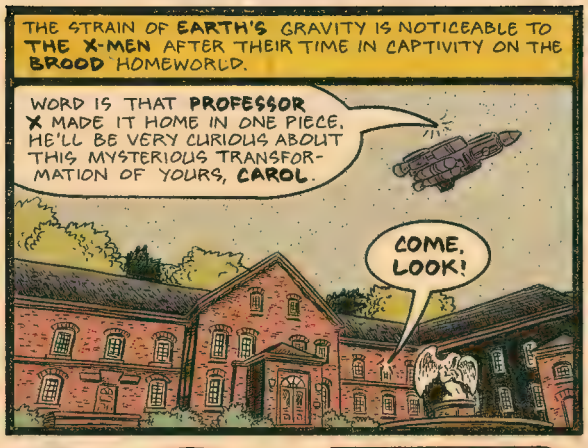
THE SLEAZOIDS ARE COMING...

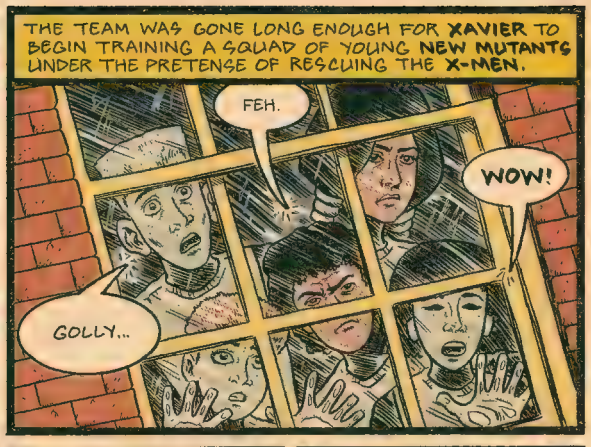
I'LL HANDLE THEM.

DANVERS KNOWS WHERE THEIR MAROONED SPACECRAFT IS AND PUNCHES A PATH TO LEAD THE WAY...

ONBOARD THE GETAWAY SHIP.

IF **SIKORSKY** PROMISES HE WON'T GET MUCH BIGGER, THEN CAN WE KEEP 'IM? PLEASE!


THE STRAIN OF EARTH'S GRAVITY IS NOTICEABLE TO THE X-MEN AFTER THEIR TIME IN CAPTIVITY ON THE BROOD HOMEWORLD.
WORD IS THAT PROFESSOR X MADE IT HOME IN ONE PIECE. HE'LL BE VERY CURIOUS ABOUT THIS MYSTERIOUS TRANSFORMATION OF YOURS, CAROL.
COME, LOOK!

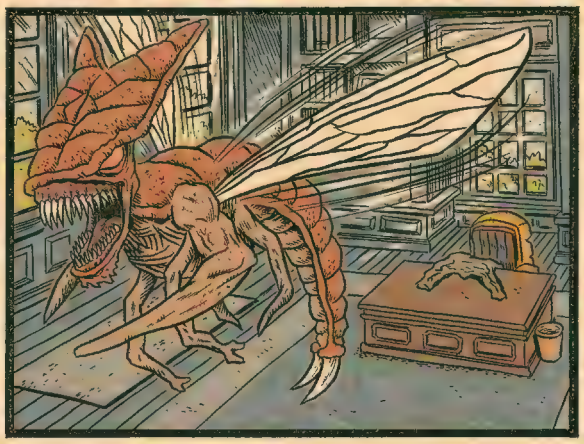

THE TEAM WAS GONE LONG ENOUGH FOR XAVIER TO BEGIN TRAINING A SQUAD OF YOUNG NEW MUTANTS UNDER THE PRETENSE OF RESCUING THE X-MEN.
FEH.
WOW!
GOLLY...

HI, THERE.
GUESS WE WON'T HAVE TO SAVE YOUR BUTTS NOW.
BOBBY!
YOU? A BUNCHA KIDS? WHAT THE HECK COULD CHUCK BE THINKIN'? WHERE'S HE AT?

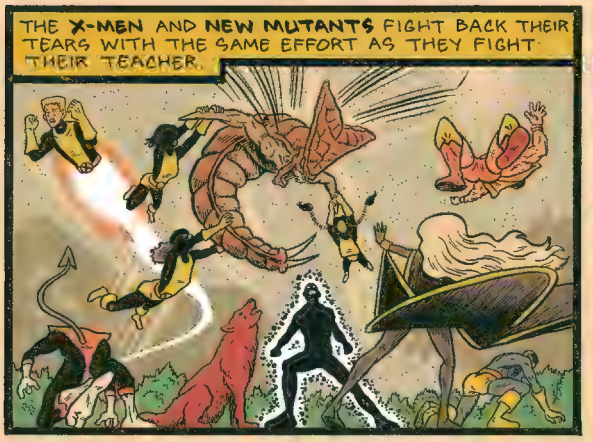
ACTUALLY, HE HASN'T LEFT HIS STUDY IN A LONG TIME...

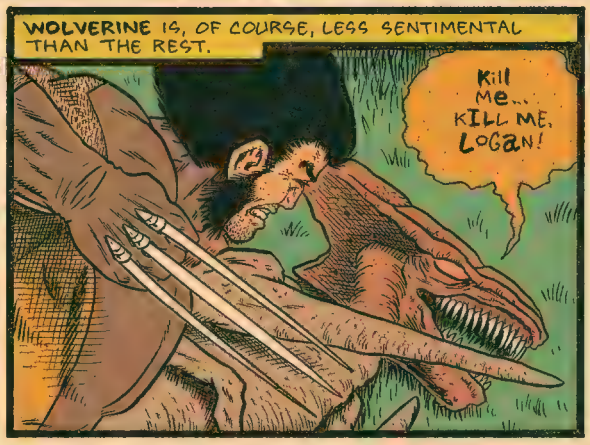
"...HE DIDN'T LOOK SO GOOD WHEN I LAST SAW 'IM, MR. WOLVERINE."
UGH...

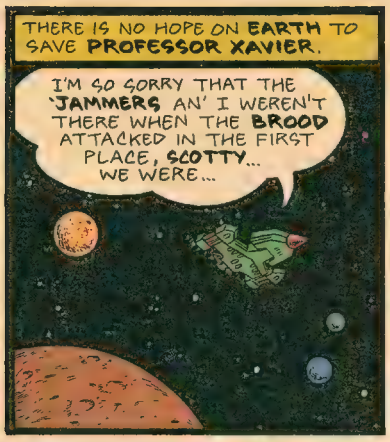
Blap blap...



-Sniff -Sniff-
BRACE YERSELVES, YOUNG'UNS.

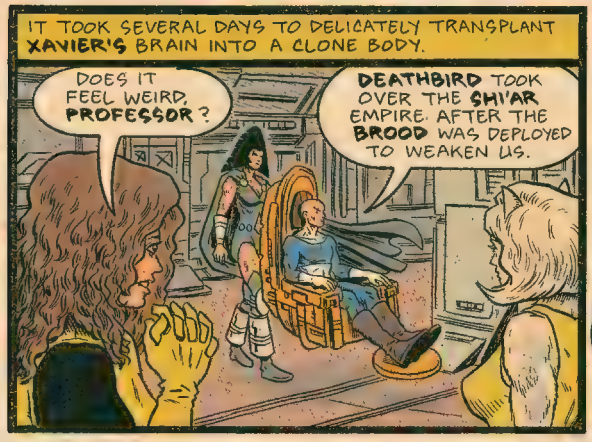

THE X-MEN AND NEW MUTANTS FIGHT BACK THEIR TEARS WITH THE SAME EFFORT AS THEY FIGHT THEIR TEACHER.


WOLVERINE IS, OF COURSE, LESS SENTIMENTAL THAN THE REST.
Kill me... KILL ME, LOGAN!

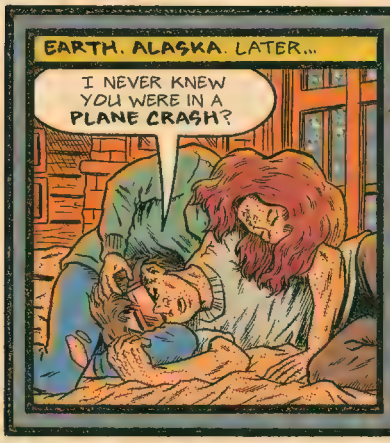

THERE IS NO HOPE ON EARTH TO SAVE PROFESSOR XAVIER.
I'M SO SORRY THAT THE 'JAMMERS AN' I WEREN'T THERE WHEN THE BROOD ATTACKED IN THE FIRST PLACE, SCOTTY... WE WERE...

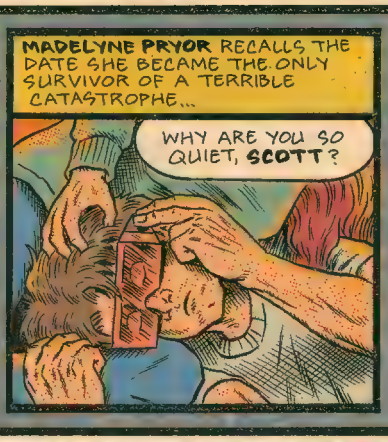
HAS SIKORSKY EVER PERFORMED THIS PROCEDURE, CORSAIR? HE'S LIKE A FATHER TO ME.

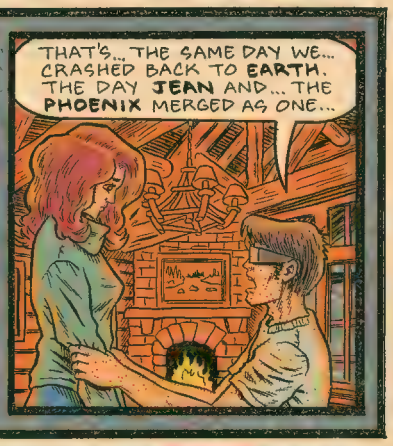
THE REST OF THE SHIP IS BACK TO FULL POWER.
THE SURGERY MUST BE COMPLETE.


IT TOOK SEVERAL DAYS TO DELICATELY TRANSPLANT XAVIER'S BRAIN INTO A CLONE BODY.
DOES IT FEEL WEIRD, PROFESSOR?
DEATHBIRD TOOK OVER THE SHI'AR EMPIRE. AFTER THE BROOD WAS DEPLOYED TO WEAKEN US.

DON'T OVERDO IT, CHARLES.
WHO'S WATCHING OVER THE NEW MUTANTS?
!!
!!!


EARTH. ALASKA. LATER...
I NEVER KNEW YOU WERE IN A PLANE CRASH?


MADELYNE PRYOR RECALLS THE DATE SHE BECAME THE ONLY SURVIVOR OF A TERRIBLE CATASTROPHE...
WHY ARE YOU SO QUIET, SCOTT?


THAT'S... THE SAME DAY WE... CRASHED BACK TO EARTH. THE DAY JEAN AND... THE PHOENIX MERGED AS ONE...

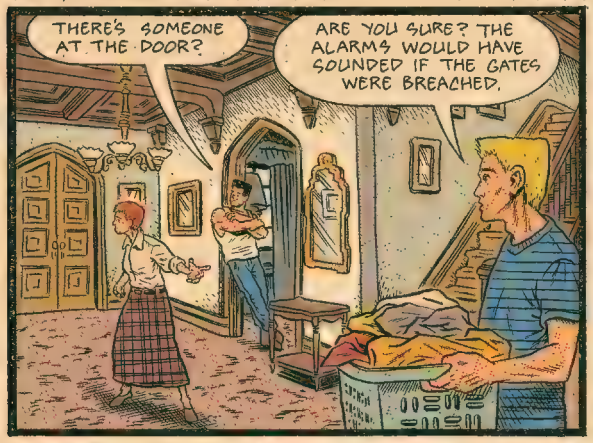
LATER STILL: CHARLES XAVIER SENSES DISTRESS IN WARREN WORTHINGTON AND ALERTS NIGHT-CRAWLER, WHO KNEW A FREE DAY OFF IN THE CITY SEEMED TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE...
PROFESSOR? ARE YOU SEEING THIS?

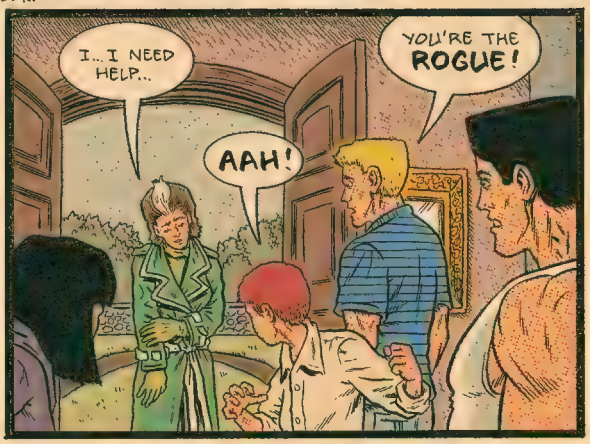
BACKUP IS ON THE WAY.
PROCEED NO FURTHER WITHOUT AID...

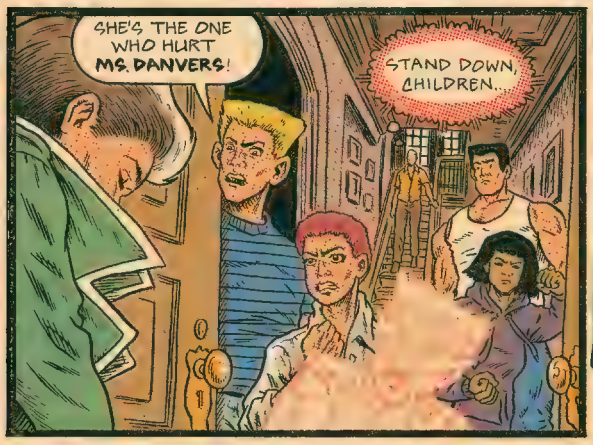
IN A LONG-THOUGHT-ABANDONED LABYRINTH OF TUNNELS BELOW MANHATTAN, THE X-MEN ARE AMBUSHED BY A SUBSET OF MUTANT OUTCASTS CALLING THEMSELVES MORLOCKS.
KITTY IS UNTOUCHABLE IN BATTLE, BUT HERE HER ACHILLES' HEEL IS THE BIOLOGICAL NEED TO BREATHE OXYGEN...
KOFF KOFF
HA HA! A LITTLE BLACK PLAGUE WILL SLOW YA DOWN SOME.
UGH!!
KATYA!
CALIBAN LOVES LITTLE ONE!
CALIBAN'S PRIVATE NOOK...
PLEASE >KOFF< HELP...>KOFF< MY FRIENDS...
MARRY CALIBAN, YES? THEN CALIBAN HELPS...
WHEN THE DUST SETTLES, THE MORLOCKS' LEADER, CALLISTO...
MY FRIENDS! YOU ALL DESERVE MY HEIR TO LEAD YOU WHEN I AM GONE, DO YOU NOT?
THIS HANDSOME BLOKE WILL GIVE ME A PURTY LI'L KING 'ER QUEEN SOME DAY. NO NEED TA FLY THE FRIEN'LY SKIES NO MORE...
STOP!
HIS PIN-FEATHERS!
YOU'RE MAIMING HIM!
STORM QUICKLY UNDERSTANDS THAT RESPECT AND FEAR ARE THE ONLY CURRENCY OF VALUE IN THIS CULTURE.
AS LEADER OF THE X-MEN, I CHALLENGE YOU IN A FIGHT TO THE DEATH!
OR ARE YOU A COWARD, CALLISTO?

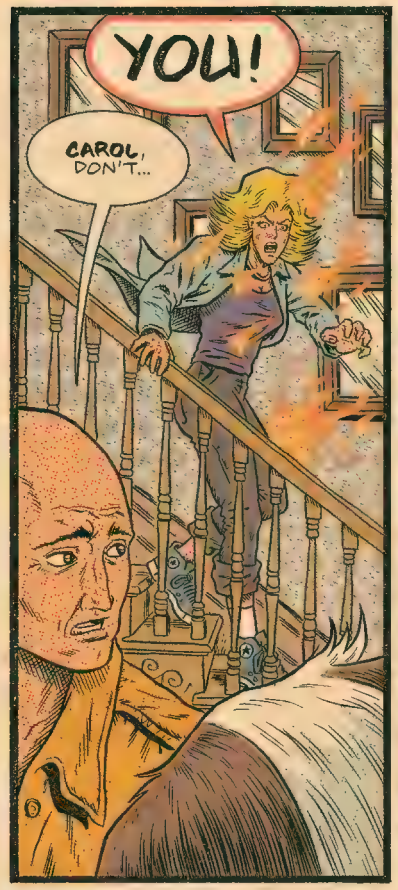
AFTER KITTY PRYDE PROMISES TO WED CALIBAN...
THANK YOU, HEALER.
FIGHT!
FIGHT!
FIGHT!
FIGHT!
FIGHT!
FIGHT!
FIGHT!
GRAH!
STORM, DID YOU KNOW THIS GUY HAD THE MUTANT GIFT TO HEAL HER WOUNDS?
>pant pant< NO...
MY QUEEN...
THE MORLOCKS HAIL STORM AS THEIR NEW LEADER. SHE OFFERS SANCTUARY AT THE XAVIER SCHOOL TO THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY, BUT THEY UNANIMOUSLY AGREE THAT THEIR HOME IS AMONG THESE SUBTERRANEAN SHADOWS.

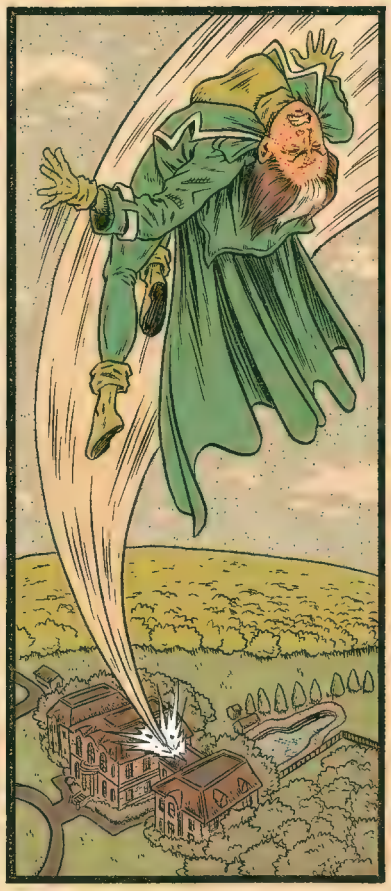
STILL, **XAVIER'S** DOMAIN IS A SANCTUARY TO MUTANTS IN NEED...











ANCHORAGE, ALASKA...
PROFESSOR, WERE YOU ABLE TO UNCOVER ANYTHING ABOUT MADELYNE? ALL THESE COINCIDENCES...
THAT IS ALL THEY ARE.
ALLOW YOURSELF A LITTLE BIT OF HAPPINESS, SCOTT. LOVE THE GIRL. LOVE HER LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW. WE ONLY LIVE ONCE, AFTER ALL.
UNLESS YOU'RE A PHOENIX, SIR...
TOKYO, JAPAN...
WE FIGGERED WHY NOT HAVE THE WEDDIN' NOW, BEFORE THE UNIVERSE NEEDS SAVIN' AGAIN 'ER SOMETHIN'.
THANKS FER COMIN'.
SNIFF SNIFF
WHO ELSE IS TAGGIN' ALONG?
OUR NEWEST "PROBATIONARY" MEMBER. DON'T BE SHY, GIRL.
UMM... HI...
YA GOTTA BE KIDDIN'!
WHO NEXT? MAGNETO?
THE MOMENT AFTER LOGAN'S FIANCÉE, MARIKO YASHIDA, TAKES HER DISAPPOINTED GAZE OFF OF HIM.
ROGUE, AS OUR GUEST, PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE.
IS THIS YOUR FIRST TRIP TO JAPAN?

THE TEA AND SAKÉ FLOW AS THE GOOD CHEER CONTINUES INTO THE LATE EVENING.

IS THIS REAL LIFE?

THAT BETTER BE RYOKUCHA IN YOUR CUP, YOUNG LADY.

IT SHOULD BE COMMON KNOWLEDGE BY THIS POINT THAT PLEASANT OCCASIONS DON'T LAST LONG FOR THE **X-MEN**.

WOLVERINE'S HEALING FACTOR AND **ROGUE'S** MUTANT STRENGTH PULL THEM FROM THEIR CHEMICALLY INDUCED COMA IN UNDER AN HOUR.

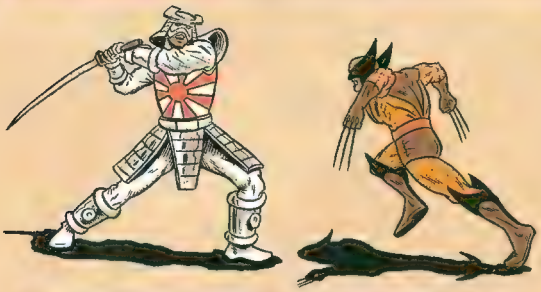
Ugh...

AN AMBULANCE IS CALLED FOR THE OTHERS BUT THE HEAD COUNT IS WRONG...

Mariko...

He took her... **BASTARD**! >Koff, Koff<

IF THE MARRIAGE WAS TO PROCEED, **LOGAN** WOULD BE ENTITLED TO THE **YASHIDA** CORPORATION. **WOLVERINE** HEARD **MARIKO** TALK ABOUT HER HALF BROTHER'S JEALOUSY OVER THE SITUATION MANY TIMES, BUT SHE NEVER MENTIONED THAT HER KIN WAS THE **SILVER SAMURAI**...



WHILE THE TWO WARRIORS HACK EACH OTHER TO PIECES...

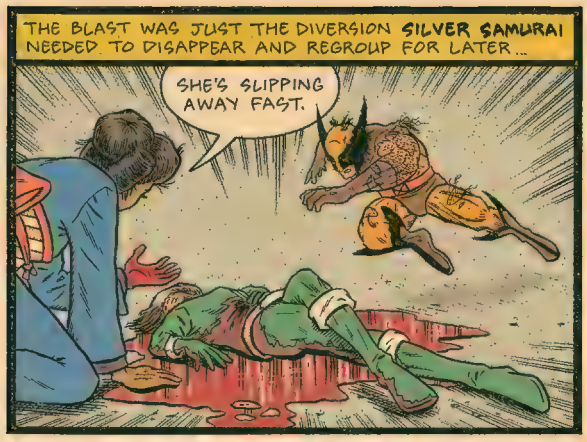
UH'M GITTIN' YOU OUTTA HEAH, SUGAH...

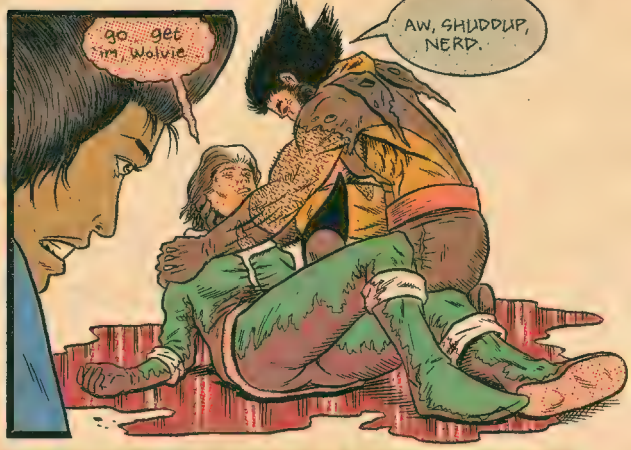
THE **YAKUZA** STANDS TO BENEFIT FROM **SILVER SAMURAI'S** STRONGHOLD ON HIS FAMILY BUSINESS.

MARIKO! GET DOWN!

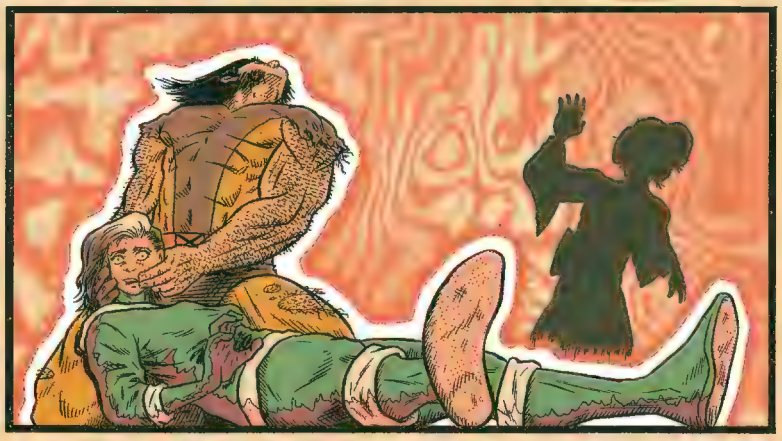
AAAARGH!

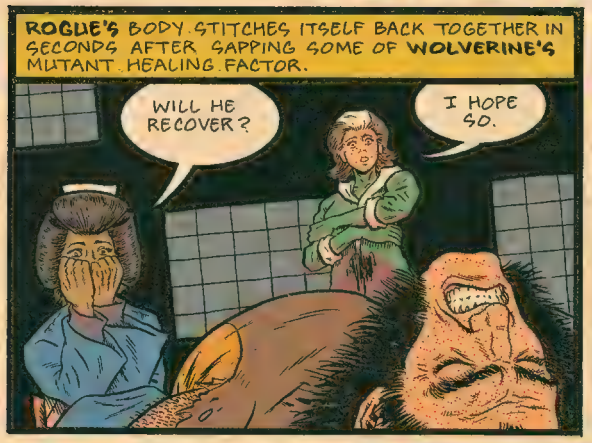
VIBRANIUM BULLETS

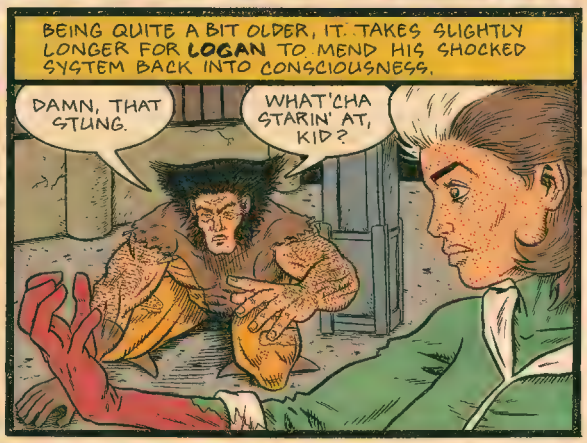

THE BLAST WAS JUST THE DIVERSION SILVER SAMURAI NEEDED TO DISAPPEAR AND REGROUP FOR LATER...
SHE'S SLIPPING AWAY FAST.


go get 'em, Wolvie.
AW, SHUDDUP, NERD.

YOU KNOW THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIX ALL THIS LEAKIN', KID.
DON'T...



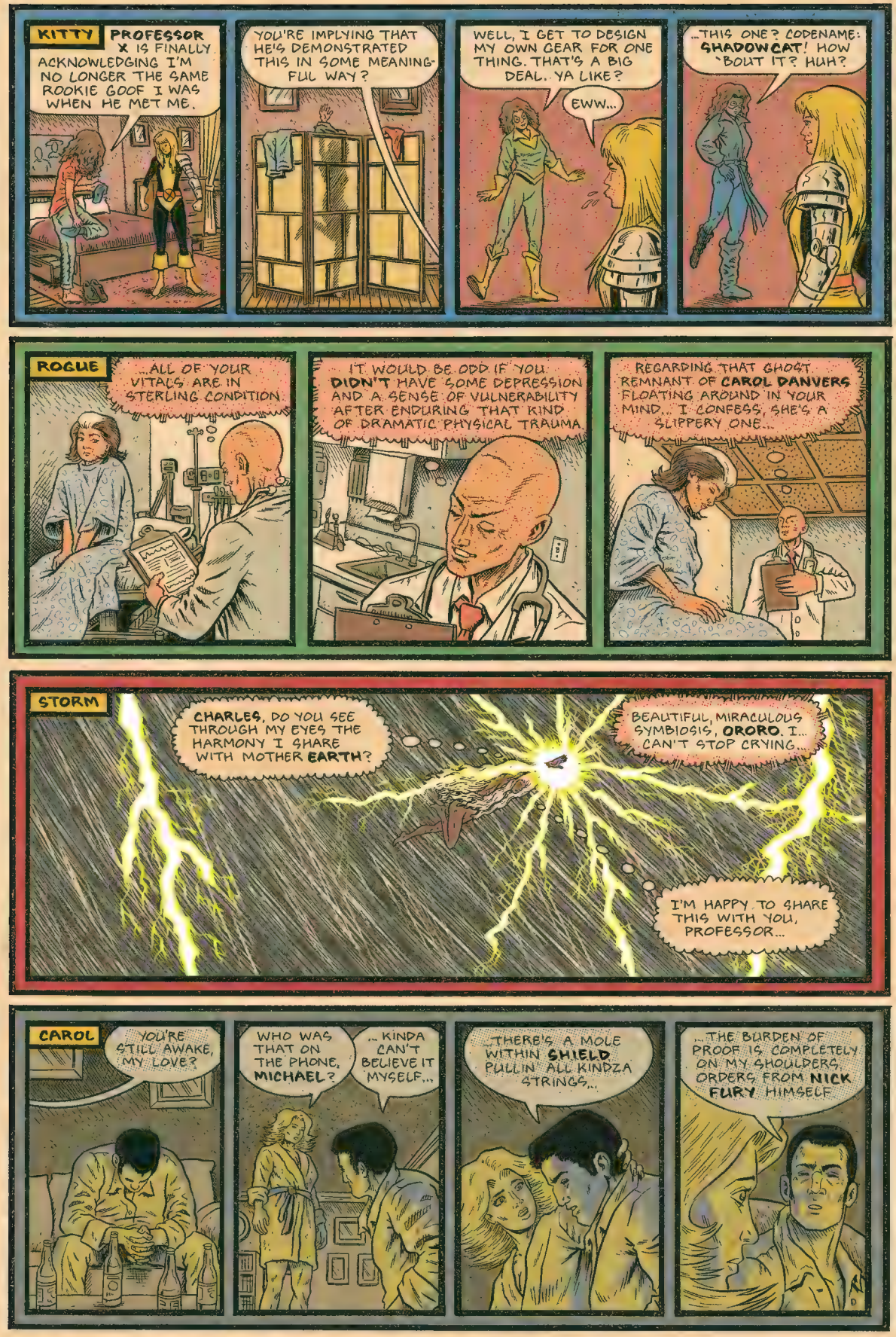

ROGUE'S BODY STITCHES ITSELF BACK TOGETHER IN SECONDS AFTER SAPPING SOME OF WOLVERINE'S MUTANT HEALING FACTOR.
WILL HE RECOVER?
I HOPE SO.


BEING QUITE A BIT OLDER, IT TAKES SLIGHTLY LONGER FOR LOGAN TO MEND HIS SHOCKED SYSTEM BACK INTO CONSCIOUSNESS.
DAMN, THAT STUNG.
WHAT'CHA STARIN' AT, KID?

UH'M KINDA WONDERIN' IF CLAWS R GONNA POP OUTTA MUH MITTS.

WHEN THE REST OF THE X-MEN RECEIVE THEIR CLEAN BILLS OF HEALTH, THEY ARE SURPRISED TO DISCOVER MARIKO CALLED OFF THE WEDDING. LOGAN NEVER GAVE THEM ANY DETAILS...
MY BROTHER WILL NEVER STOP HIS VENGEANCE. I REFUSE TO BRING THE DISHONOR OF MY FAMILY UPON YOU UNTIL I CORRECT OUR PAST MISTAKES.

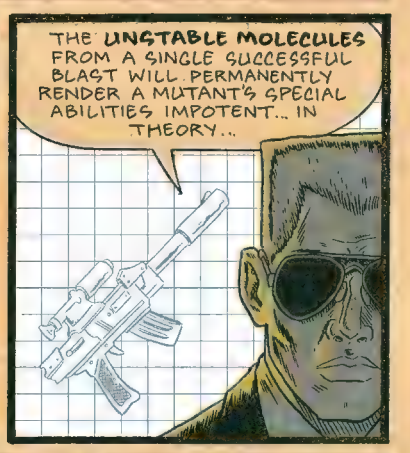
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD, PROSPECTS OF A NEW MARRIAGE BEGIN TO TAKE SHAPE...
YES!
WEIRDNESS CONTINUES TO ESCALATE FOR SCOTT.
WHERE COULD THIS POSSIBLY HAVE COME FROM ?
SCOTT ?
MADELYNE, ARE YOU THE REINCARNATION OF JEAN GREY ?
ARE YOU PHOENIX ?
MADDY! MY GLASSES!
I'VE TRIED MY BEST TO BE UNDERSTANDING UP TO THIS MOMENT...
...BUT DON'T YOU DARE COMPARE ME TO HER EVER AGAIN! GOT IT?

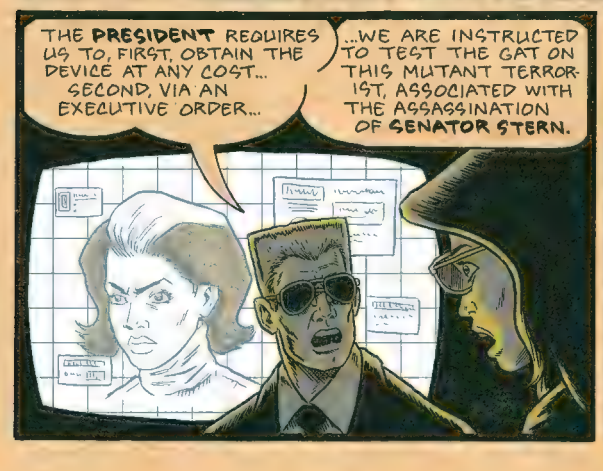

KITTY
PROFESSOR X IS FINALLY ACKNOWLEDGING I'M NO LONGER THE SAME ROOKIE GOOF I WAS WHEN HE MET ME.
YOU'RE IMPLYING THAT HE'S DEMONSTRATED THIS IN SOME MEANINGFUL WAY?
WELL, I GET TO DESIGN MY OWN GEAR FOR ONE THING. THAT'S A BIG DEAL. YA LIKE?
EWW...
...THIS ONE? CODENAME: SHADOWCAT! HOW 'BOUT IT? HUH?
ROGUE
...ALL OF YOUR VITALS ARE IN STERLING CONDITION.
IT WOULD BE ODD IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE SOME DEPRESSION AND A SENSE OF VULNERABILITY AFTER ENDURING THAT KIND OF DRAMATIC PHYSICAL TRAUMA.
REGARDING THAT GHOST REMNANT OF CAROL DANVERS FLOATING AROUND IN YOUR MIND... I CONFESS, SHE'S A SLIPPERY ONE...
STORM
CHARLES, DO YOU SEE THROUGH MY EYES THE HARMONY I SHARE WITH MOTHER EARTH?
BEAUTIFUL, MIRACULOUS SYMBIOSIS, ORORO. I... CAN'T STOP CRYING...
I'M HAPPY TO SHARE THIS WITH YOU, PROFESSOR...
CAROL
YOU'RE STILL AWAKE, MY LOVE?
WHO WAS THAT ON THE PHONE, MICHAEL?
...KINDA CAN'T BELIEVE IT MYSELF...
...THERE'S A MOLE WITHIN SHIELD PULLIN' ALL KINDZA STRINGS...
...THE BURDEN OF PROOF IS COMPLETELY ON MY SHOULDERS. ORDERS FROM NICK FURY HIMSELF.

SCOTT...
AS AN ACT OF SELF-PRESERVATION, HE ADORNS THE VENEER OF A HAPPY MAN BEGINNING A NEW PHASE IN HIS LIFE...
GREY

DARPA...
WORD HAS COME DOWN FROM ON HIGH.

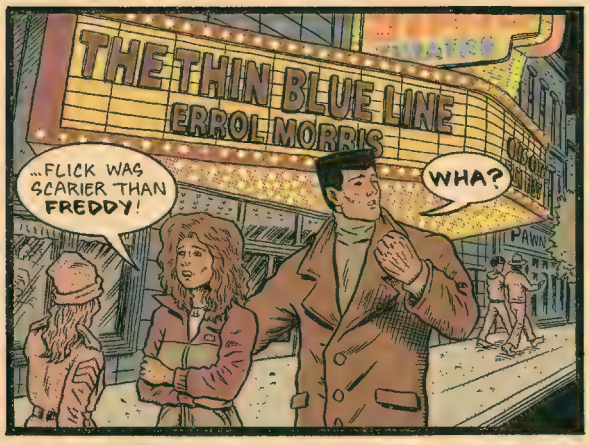
FORGE, FORMERLY OF STARK INDUSTRIES, IS HOLDING ONTO A BREAKTHROUGH TECHNOLOGY IN THE FIELD OF MUTANT NEUTRALIZATION...


THE UNSTABLE MOLECULES FROM A SINGLE SUCCESSFUL BLAST WILL PERMANENTLY RENDER A MUTANT'S SPECIAL ABILITIES IMPOTENT... IN THEORY...


THE PRESIDENT REQUIRES US TO, FIRST, OBTAIN THE DEVICE AT ANY COST... SECOND, VIA AN EXECUTIVE ORDER...
...WE ARE INSTRUCTED TO TEST THE GAT ON THIS MUTANT TERRORIST, ASSOCIATED WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR STERN.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR RAVEN DARKHOLME IS CHOSEN TO CHARM THE WEAPON AWAY FROM FORGE...

SHE'LL DIE BEFORE SHE LETS THEM USE THAT GUN ON HER BABY...


THE THIN BLUE LINE
ERROL MORRIS
...FLICK WAS SCARIER THAN FREDDY!
WHA?

DOWN, KATYA!
OUCH!

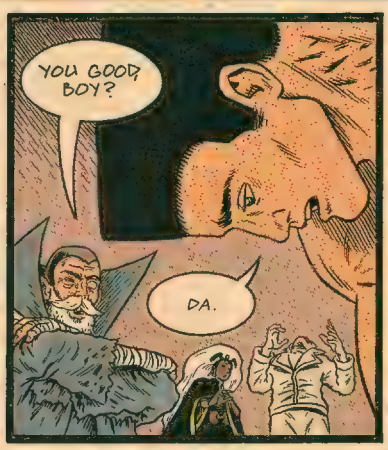
KITTY PRYDE IS KNOCKED OUT COLD BEFORE COLOSSUS REACHES WHITE-HOT TEMPERATURE.
AVALANCHE!
THE LIQUID NITROGEN, PLEASE.

IN AN INSTANT, PETER'S BODY IS CHILLED NEARLY TO ABSOLUTE ZERO.

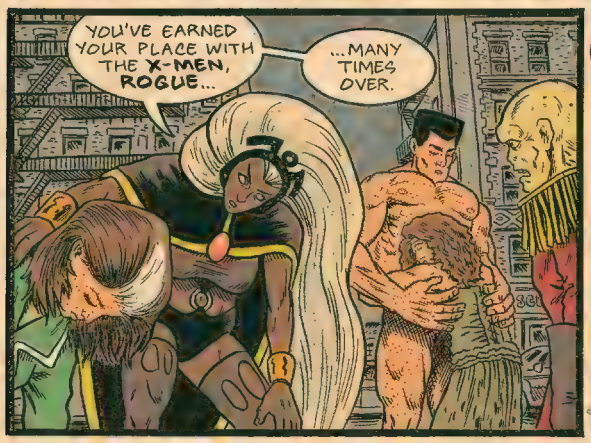
WHEN THE X-MEN ARRIVE, THEIR BROTHER'S HEART IS STILL BEATING, BUT THEY FEAR HE MAY CRUMBLE AT THE SLIGHTEST TOUCH.
PICKING UP KITTY'S SCENT... UNDERGROUND!
COULD THE MORLOCKS HAVE DONE THIS?

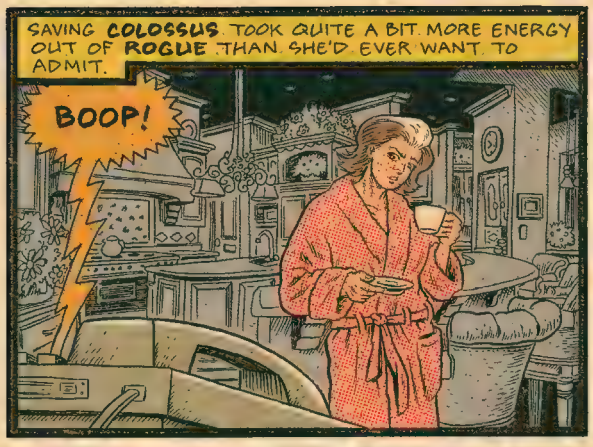
THE MANHATTAN ATTACK WAS SIMPLY A RUSE TO DRIVE THE TEAM FROM THE MANSION.
ROGUE, THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF U.S. DEFENSE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU AS WE SPEAK. I DON'T THINK THIS CLOWN CAN KEEP YOU AS SAFE AS I CAN.
MOMMA, UH'VE HURT A LOT OF PEOPLE FOR YOU AND MUH POWERS ARE OUT OF CONTROL 'CUZ OF IT... VOICES INSIDE MUH HEAD!
YOU HAVE TO LET ME BE, MOMMA, OR I MIGHT JUS' EN' UP KILLIN' MUHSELF...

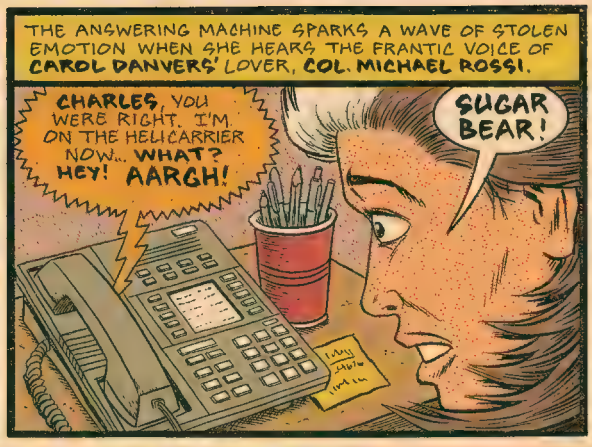
KITTY PRYDE EMERGES FROM HER CONCUSSIVE STATE TO FAMILIAR VOICES. SHE FEELS NO COMFORT IN THIS AT ALL...
...CALIBAN DOES, CALLISTO! CALIBAN DOES...
HUH?
OUR WORD IS OUR BOND DOWN HERE IN THE ALLEY, LITTLE GIRL! IT'S ALL WE GOT. BREACHING A PROMISE IS PUNISHABLE BY DEATH.
CALIBAN SAID YOU AGREED TO MARRY IM IF HE HELPED YOU OUT, AND HE MADE GOOD ON HIS PART. UH, THE DEAL, SO HERE WE ARE. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AN' WIFE!
OKAY, DID YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO MY FRIEND UP THERE? IS HE OKAY? CAN YOU HELP HIM?
YOU ASK A LOT OF QUESTIONS, LITTLE GIRL...
CONSIDER HER QUESTIONS TO BE ORDERS...
...FROM THE LIPS OF THE MORLOCKS' LEADER!
STORM!

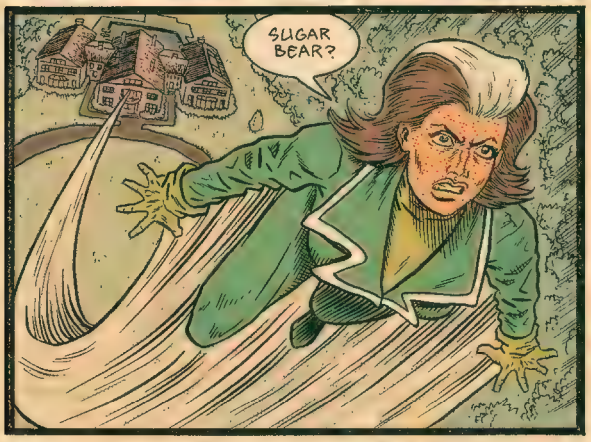


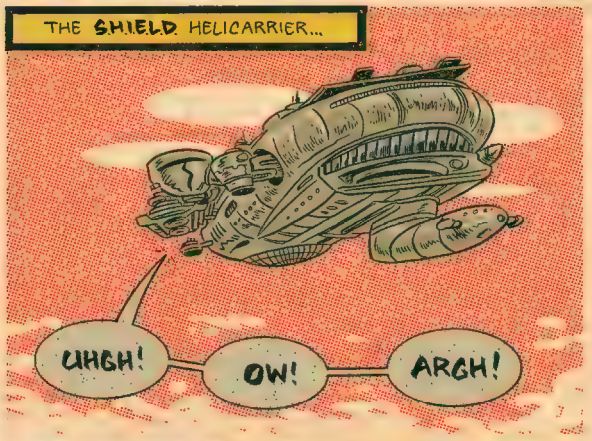
ROGUE METABOLIZES THE LAST BITS OF **WOLVERINE'S** HEALING FACTOR IN A GAMBLE SHE WASN'T SURE WOULD WORK...




SAVING COLOSSUS TOOK QUITE A BIT MORE ENERGY OUT OF ROGUE THAN SHE'D EVER WANT TO ADMIT.
BOOP!


THE ANSWERING MACHINE SPARKS A WAVE OF STOLEN EMOTION WHEN SHE HEARS THE FRANTIC VOICE OF CAROL DANVERS' LOVER, COL. MICHAEL ROSSI.
CHARLES, YOU WERE RIGHT. I'M ON THE HELICARRIER NOW... WHAT? HEY! AARGH!
SUGAR BEAR!

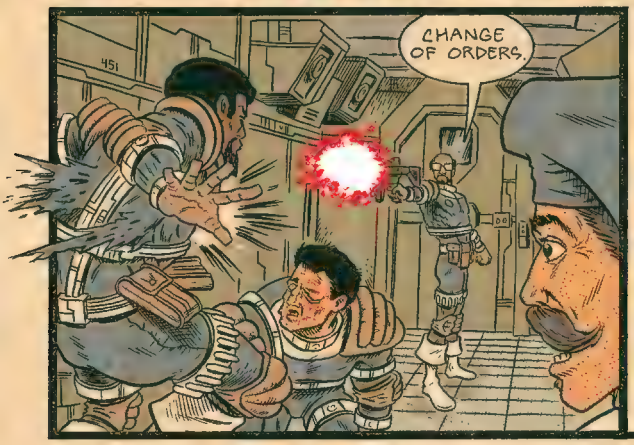

SUGAR BEAR?


THE S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER...
UHGH!
OW!
ARGH!

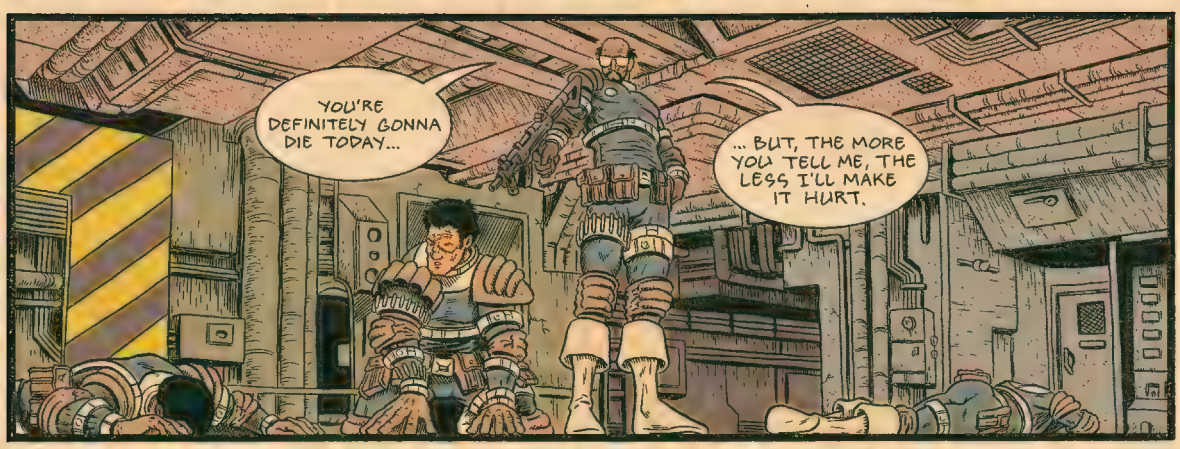
WHAT'S YER GAME, ROSSI? DON'T YOU REALIZE HOW PAINFUL IT C'N BE TO STICK THAT NOSE WHERE IT DON'T BELONG? YOU ASK TOO MANY QUESTIONS.

CHOKING HIM OUT WON'T GET US ANY ANSWERS.

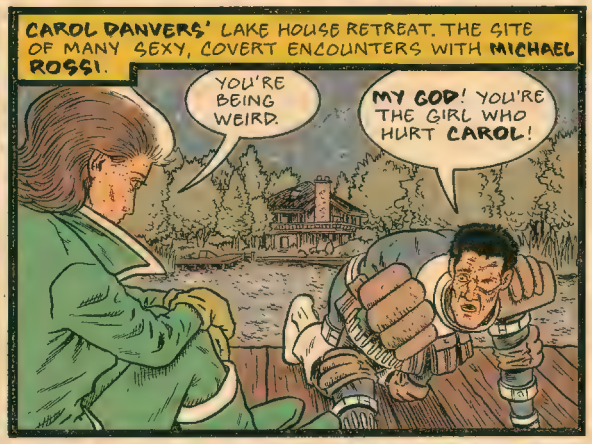
RUNNING OUT OF OPTIONS, THE COMMANDING OFFICER CONSULTS HIS TRUE BOSS...
YES, SIR, I'M ALONE.
MOST TROUBLING THAT ROSSI EVEN MENTIONED MY NAME...


CHANGE OF ORDERS.

JUS' YOU N' ME NOW, ROSSI.


YOU'RE DEFINITELY GONNA DIE TODAY...
... BUT, THE MORE YOU TELL ME, THE LESS I'LL MAKE IT HURT.

WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT, SUGAR BEAR?
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?


CAROL DANVERS' LAKE HOUSE RETREAT. THE SITE OF MANY SEXY, COVERT ENCOUNTERS WITH MICHAEL ROSSI.
YOU'RE BEING WEIRD.
MY GOD! YOU'RE THE GIRL WHO HURT CAROL!

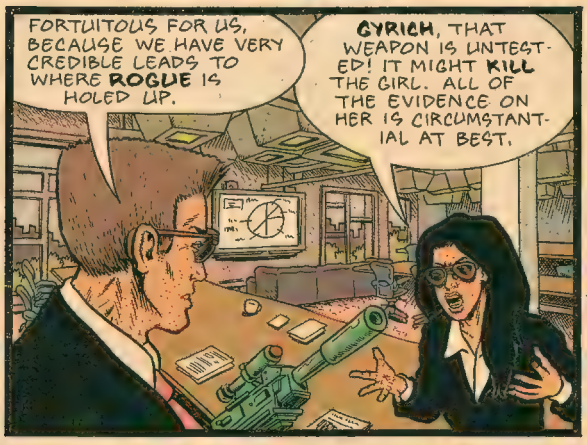
SAVING ME WON'T ABSOLVE YOU FROM WHAT YOU DID TO HER!
YOU HEAR ME?!

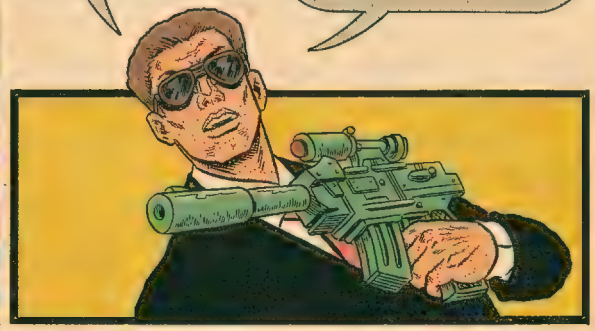
THE SHIELD HELICARRIER...
YER POSITIVE?
SHE NEARLY DECAPITATED ME WITH AN UPPERCUT AND SHOT OUR GUYS WITH MY SERVICE WEAPON...

IN THE GUISE OF **D.O.D.*** DEPUTY DIRECTOR **RAVEN DARKHOLME**, **MYSTIQUE** REPEATEDLY STALLED HER ACQUISITION OF THE **MUTANT NEUTRALIZER** FROM ITS MANUFACTURER, **FORGE**, UNTIL...

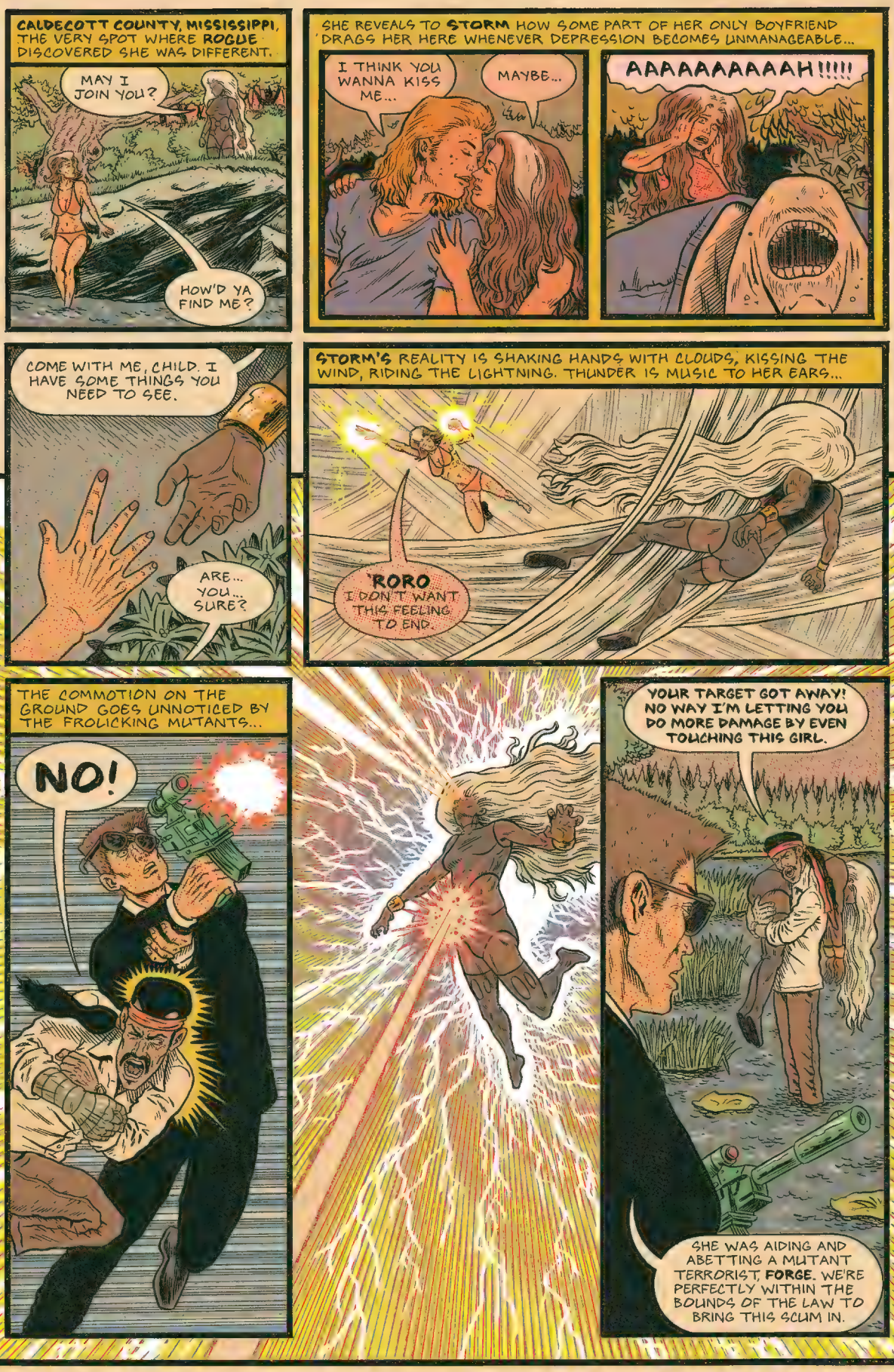
IT WAS NO PROBLEM. **VAL COOPER** WAS ABLE TO RETRIEVE THE PARCEL...

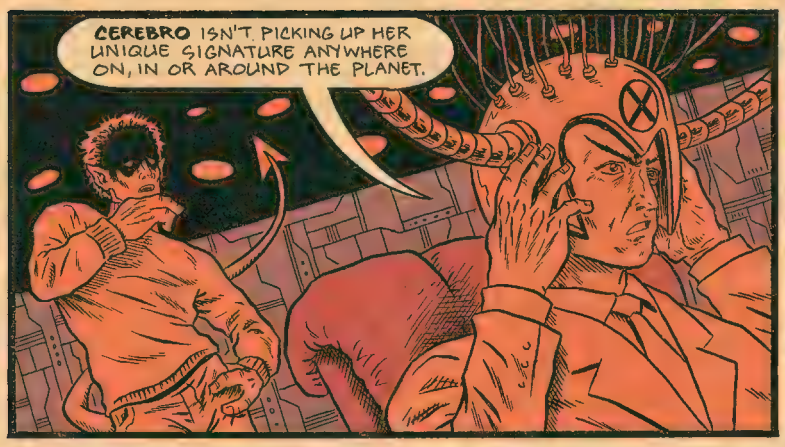
* DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE



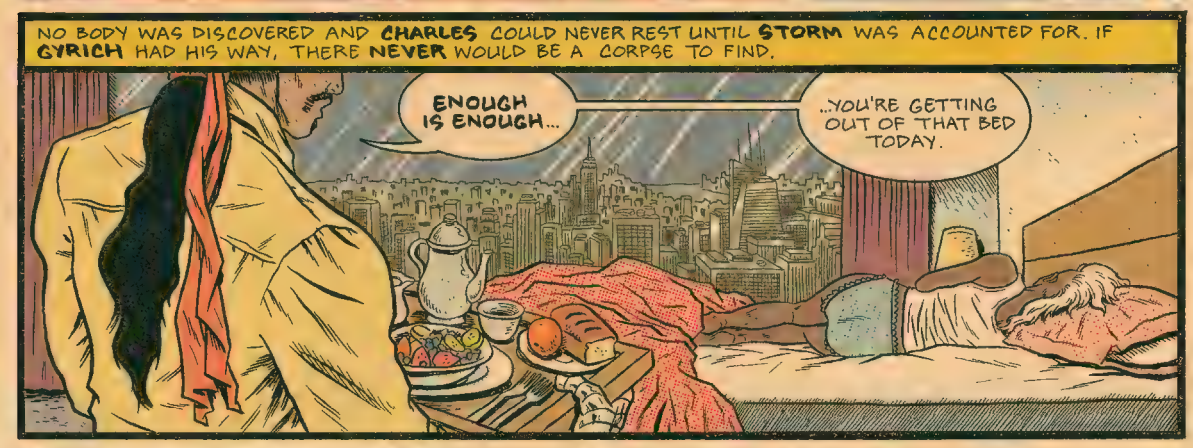


MYSTIQUE BEAMS INTO **FORGE'S** EMERGENCY CHANNEL.


CALDECOTT COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, THE VERY SPOT WHERE ROGUE DISCOVERED SHE WAS DIFFERENT.
MAY I JOIN YOU?
HOW'D YA FIND ME?
SHE REVEALS TO STORM HOW SOME PART OF HER ONLY BOYFRIEND DRAGS HER HERE WHENEVER DEPRESSION BECOMES UNMANAGEABLE...
I THINK YOU WANNA KISS ME...
MAYBE...
AAAAAAAAAAH!!!!!
COME WITH ME, CHILD. I HAVE SOME THINGS YOU NEED TO SEE.
ARE... YOU... SURE?
STORM'S REALITY IS SHAKING HANDS WITH CLOUDS, KISSING THE WIND, RIDING THE LIGHTNING. THUNDER IS MUSIC TO HER EARS...
RORO I DON'T WANT THIS FEELING TO END.
THE COMMOTION ON THE GROUND GOES UNNOTICED BY THE FROLICKING MUTANTS...
NO!
YOUR TARGET GOT AWAY! NO WAY I'M LETTING YOU DO MORE DAMAGE BY EVEN TOUCHING THIS GIRL.
SHE WAS AIDING AND ABETTING A MUTANT TERRORIST, FORGE. WE'RE PERFECTLY WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THE LAW TO BRING THIS SCUM IN.


CEREBRO ISN'T PICKING UP HER UNIQUE SIGNATURE ANYWHERE ON, IN OR AROUND THE PLANET.

CHARLES XAVIER PUTS CEREBRO DOWN AFTER A FEW WEEKS OF SEARCHING TO CONTEMPLATE HIS NEXT COURSE OF ACTION.

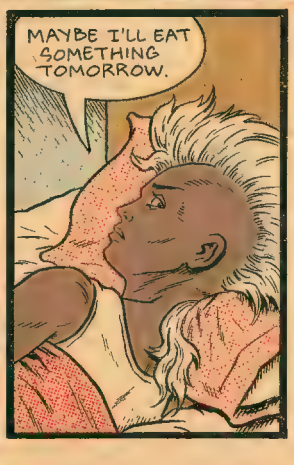

NO BODY WAS DISCOVERED AND CHARLES COULD NEVER REST UNTIL STORM WAS ACCOUNTED FOR. IF GYRICH HAD HIS WAY, THERE NEVER WOULD BE A CORPSE TO FIND.
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH...
...YOU'RE GETTING OUT OF THAT BED TODAY.

YOU HAVE TO EAT, ORORO. I'M NOT GONNA LET YOU DIE OR WASTE AWAY. NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU THINK YOU WANT IT.

YOU... COULDN'T UNDERSTAND.

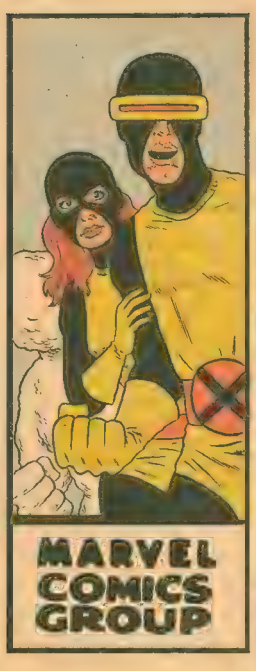
SURE I DO. YOU BELIEVED THAT SCHTICK ABOUT REALLY BEING A WEATHER GODDESS AND NOW YOU HAVE TO WALK THE GLOBE LIKE REGULAR FOLK.

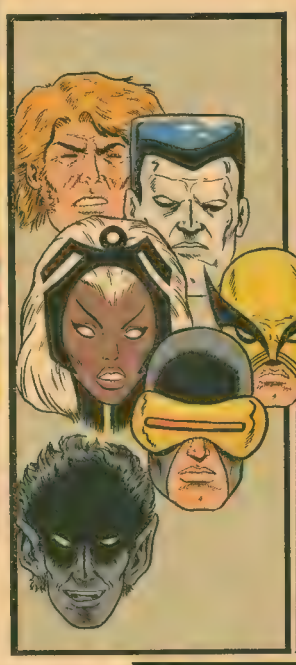
I-- WILL FLY AGAIN, FORGE.

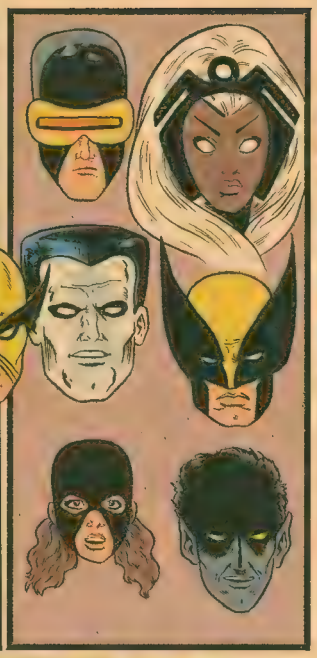

MAYBE I'LL EAT SOMETHING TOMORROW.

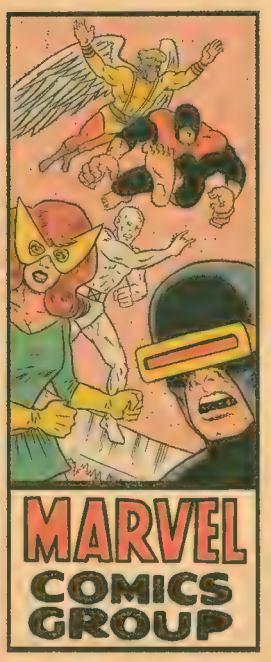
NOW LEAVE ME BE. YOU'VE DONE PLENTY ALREADY.

EPISODE 5


MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP



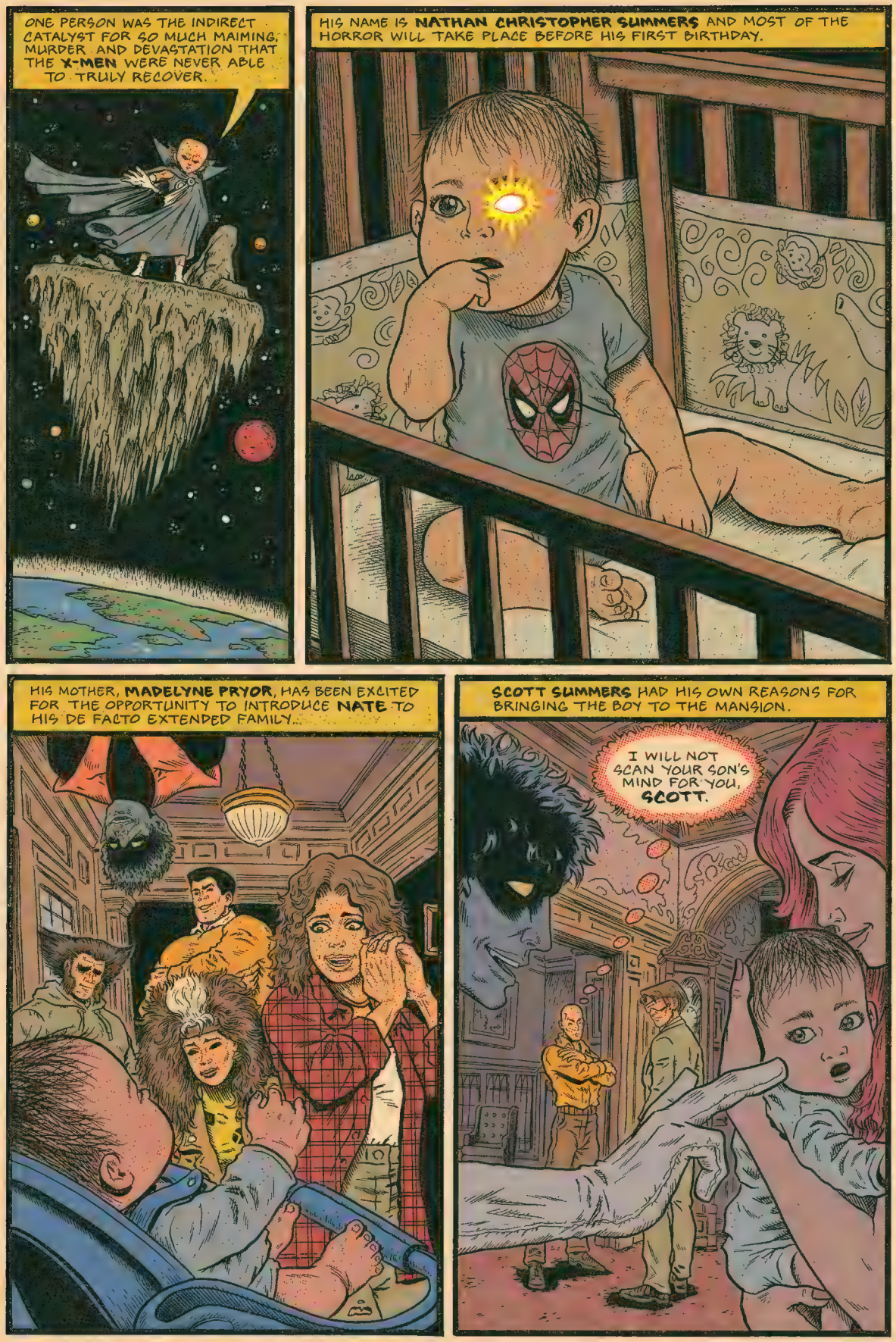


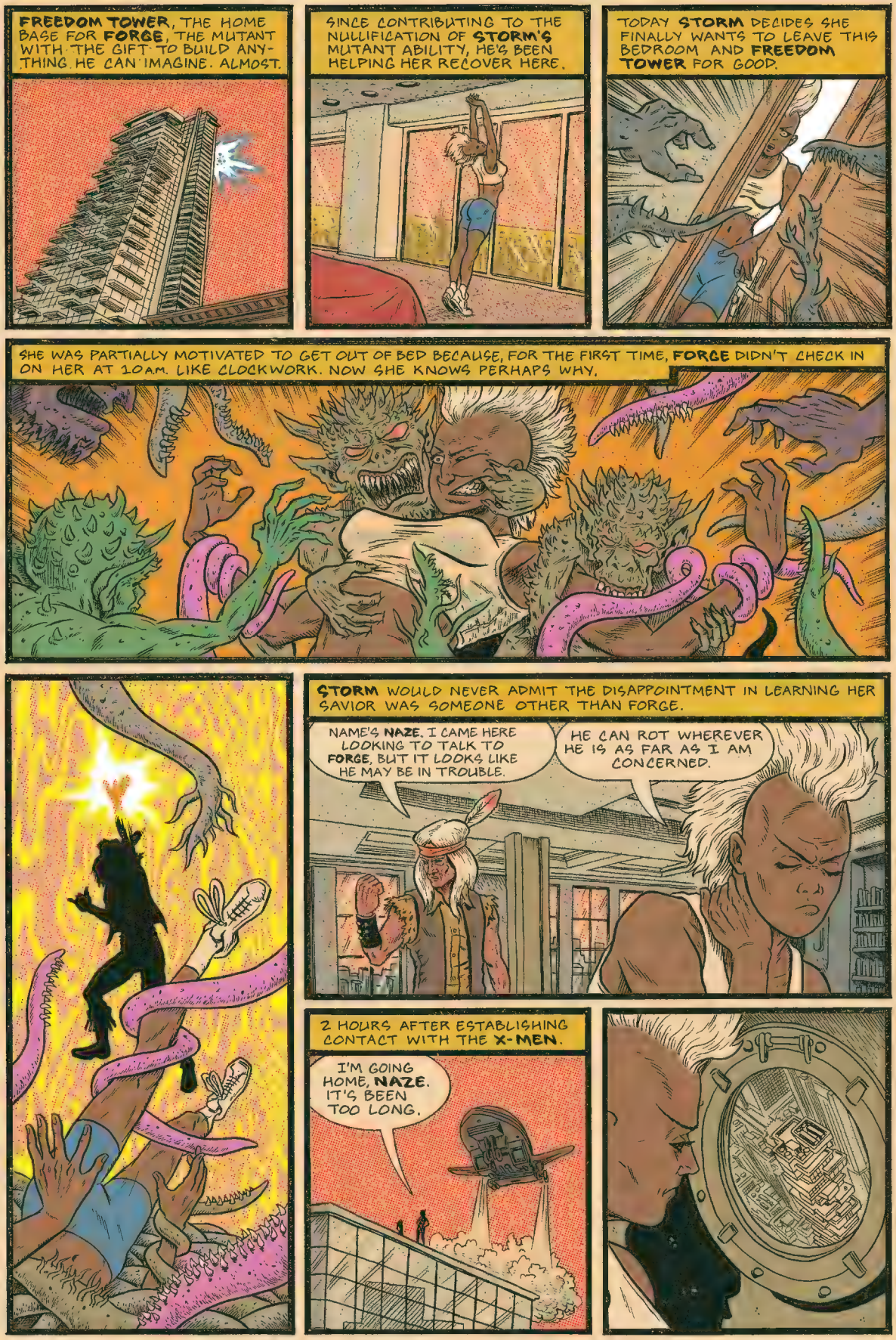

MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

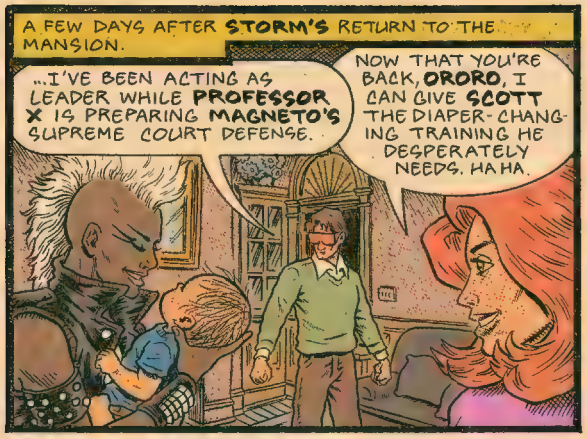
MARVEL

MARVEL

MARVEL
COMICS

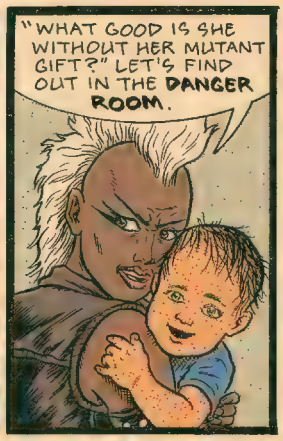

ONE PERSON WAS THE INDIRECT CATALYST FOR SO MUCH MAIMING, MURDER AND DEVASTATION THAT THE X-MEN WERE NEVER ABLE TO TRULY RECOVER.
HIS NAME IS NATHAN CHRISTOPHER SUMMERS AND MOST OF THE HORROR WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE HIS FIRST BIRTHDAY.
HIS MOTHER, MADELYNE PRYOR, HAS BEEN EXCITED FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTRODUCE NATE TO HIS DE FACTO EXTENDED FAMILY...
SCOTT SUMMERS HAD HIS OWN REASONS FOR BRINGING THE BOY TO THE MANSION.
I WILL NOT SCAN YOUR SON'S MIND FOR YOU, SCOTT.

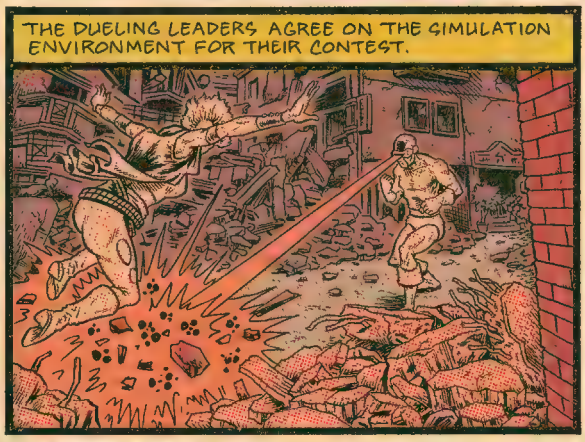

FREEDOM TOWER, THE HOME BASE FOR FORGE, THE MUTANT WITH THE GIFT TO BUILD ANYTHING HE CAN IMAGINE. ALMOST.
SINCE CONTRIBUTING TO THE NULLIFICATION OF STORM'S MUTANT ABILITY, HE'S BEEN HELPING HER RECOVER HERE.
TODAY STORM DECIDES SHE FINALLY WANTS TO LEAVE THIS BEDROOM AND FREEDOM TOWER FOR GOOD.
SHE WAS PARTIALLY MOTIVATED TO GET OUT OF BED BECAUSE, FOR THE FIRST TIME, FORGE DIDN'T CHECK IN ON HER AT 10AM. LIKE CLOCKWORK. NOW SHE KNOWS PERHAPS WHY.
STORM WOULD NEVER ADMIT THE DISAPPOINTMENT IN LEARNING HER SAVIOR WAS SOMEONE OTHER THAN FORGE.
NAME'S NAZE. I CAME HERE LOOKING TO TALK TO FORGE, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE MAY BE IN TROUBLE.
HE CAN ROT WHEREVER HE IS AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED.
2 HOURS AFTER ESTABLISHING CONTACT WITH THE X-MEN.
I'M GOING HOME, NAZE. IT'S BEEN TOO LONG.


A FEW DAYS AFTER STORM'S RETURN TO THE MANSION.
...I'VE BEEN ACTING AS LEADER WHILE PROFESSOR X IS PREPARING MAGNETO'S SUPREME COURT DEFENSE.
NOW THAT YOU'RE BACK, ORORO, I CAN GIVE SCOTT THE DIAPER-CHANGING TRAINING HE DESPERATELY NEEDS. HA HA.

MADDY, I NEED TO KEEP MY POST HERE UNTIL STORM... GETS HER... BEARINGS BACK.
YOUR FAMILY NEEDS YOU TOO, SCOTT.

ORORO IS ON THE MEND, MADDY.
SAY WHAT EVERYONE IS ALREADY THINKING, SCOTT...

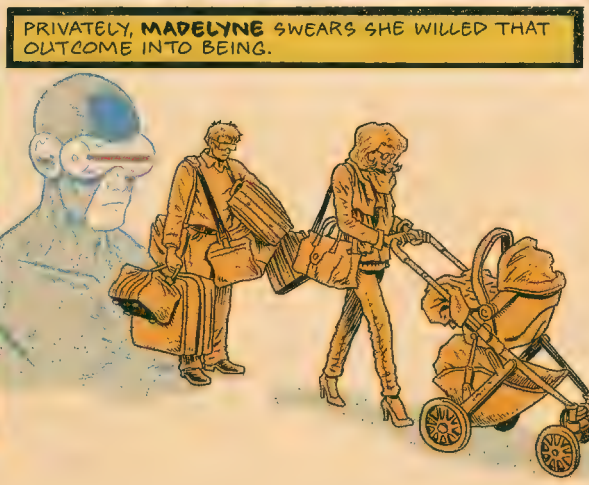

"WHAT GOOD IS SHE WITHOUT HER MUTANT GIFT?" LET'S FIND OUT IN THE DANGER ROOM.


THE DUELING LEADERS AGREE ON THE SIMULATION ENVIRONMENT FOR THEIR CONTEST.

BONK!

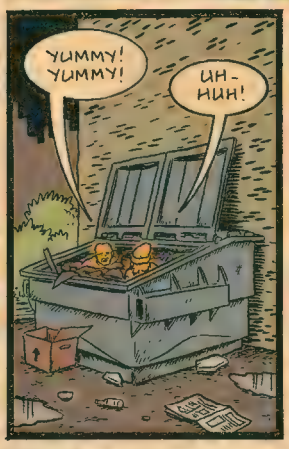
HMMM?

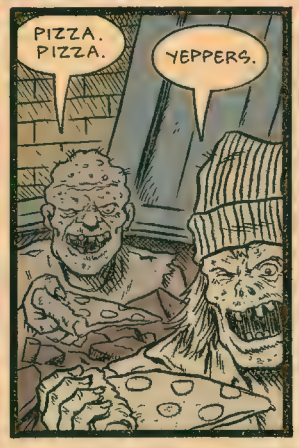
CONCEDE LEADERSHIP OF THE X-MEN TO ME IF YOU EVER WANT THIS BACK.


PRIVATELY, MADELYNE SWEARS SHE WILLED THAT OUTCOME INTO BEING.

UNDISCLOSED LOCATION...
A SUDDEN REVELATION HAS FALLEN INTO MY LAP REQUIRING SOME DRASTIC ACTION.

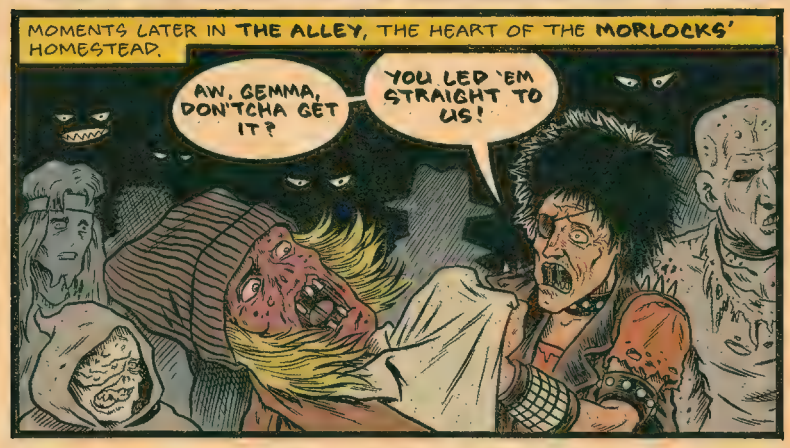
"FOR ME TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT I MUST, A MASSACRE MAY BE IN ORDER. DO YOU ACCEPT?"
DOIN' WHAT WE LOVE AN' GETTIN' PAID FER IT?
SOUNDS LIKE THE 'MERICAN DREAM, MISTER SINISTER.

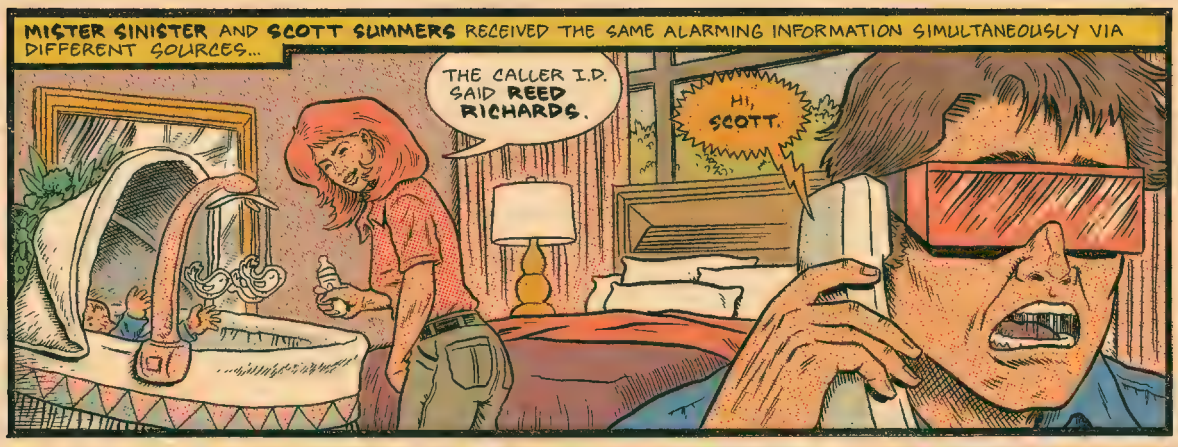

YUMMY! YUMMY!
UH-HUH!


PIZZA. PIZZA.
YEPPERS.

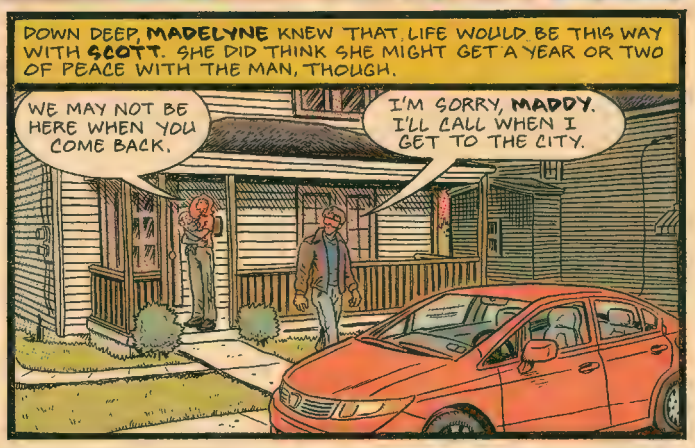
BLAM!
BOGGY?

WELL, NO ONE EVER ACCUSED 'EM OF BEING BRAIN SURGEONS.

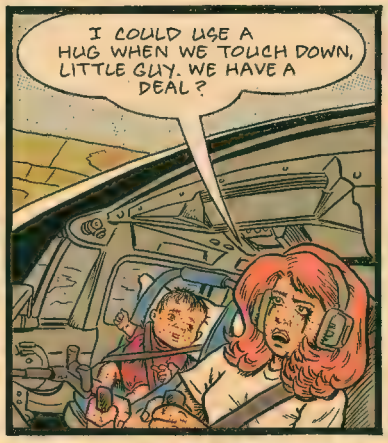

MOMENTS LATER IN THE ALLEY, THE HEART OF THE MORLOCKS' HOMESTEAD.
AW, GEMMA, DON'TCHA GET IT?
YOU LED 'EM STRAIGHT TO US!

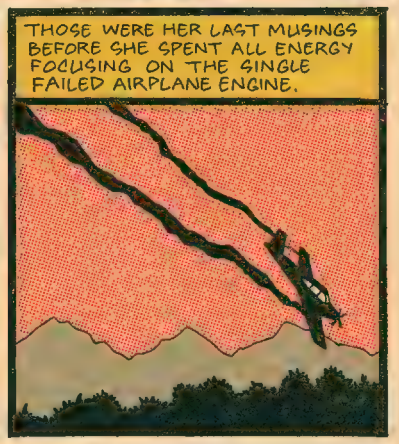

MISTER SINISTER AND SCOTT SUMMERS RECEIVED THE SAME ALARMING INFORMATION SIMULTANEOUSLY VIA DIFFERENT SOURCES...
THE CALLER I.D. SAID REED RICHARDS.
HI, SCOTT.

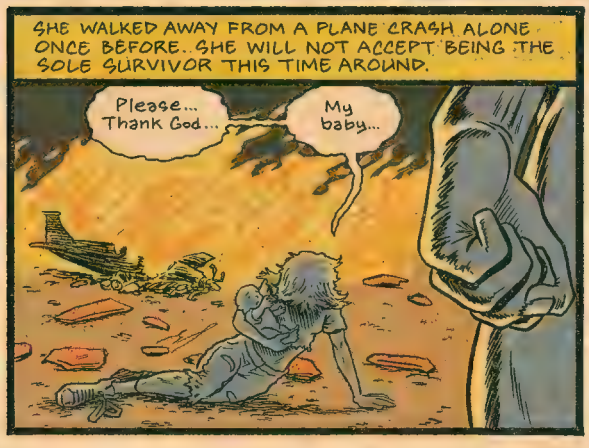
A QUIET, PEDESTRIAN LIFE WAS NEVER IN THE CARDS FOR CYCLOPS.
EXPLAIN YOURSELF! YOU OWE US THAT!
WHAT DOES THE FANTASTIC FOUR WANT WITH YOU?

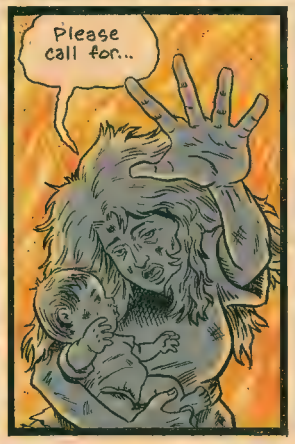

DOWN DEEP, MADELYNE KNEW THAT LIFE WOULD BE THIS WAY WITH SCOTT. SHE DID THINK SHE MIGHT GET A YEAR OR TWO OF PEACE WITH THE MAN, THOUGH.
WE MAY NOT BE HERE WHEN YOU COME BACK.
I'M SORRY, MADDY. I'LL CALL WHEN I GET TO THE CITY.

MADELYNE ISN'T SURE WHERE SHE AND NATHAN ARE GOING ONCE THEY LAND. SHE SIMPLY REFUSES TO SPEND ANY MORE TIME IN THAT EMPTY HOUSE.
I KNOW, NATHAN.
WE'LL BE ABLE TO STRETCH SOON.


I COULD USE A HUG WHEN WE TOUCH DOWN, LITTLE GUY. WE HAVE A DEAL?


THOSE WERE HER LAST MUSINGS BEFORE SHE SPENT ALL ENERGY FOCUSING ON THE SINGLE FAILED AIRPLANE ENGINE.


SHE WALKED AWAY FROM A PLANE CRASH ALONE ONCE BEFORE. SHE WILL NOT ACCEPT BEING THE SOLE SURVIVOR THIS TIME AROUND.
Please... Thank God...
My baby...

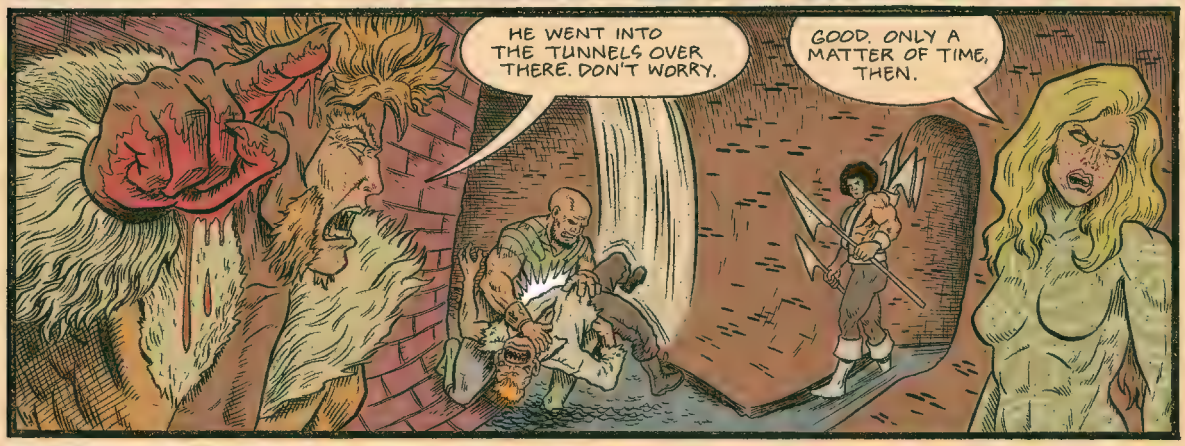

Please call for...

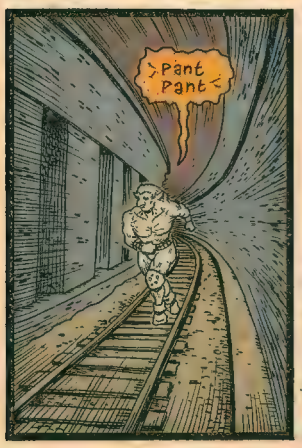
...help...
BLAM!
BLAM!

THE MORLOCKS' ALLEY...
FISH IN A BARREL...

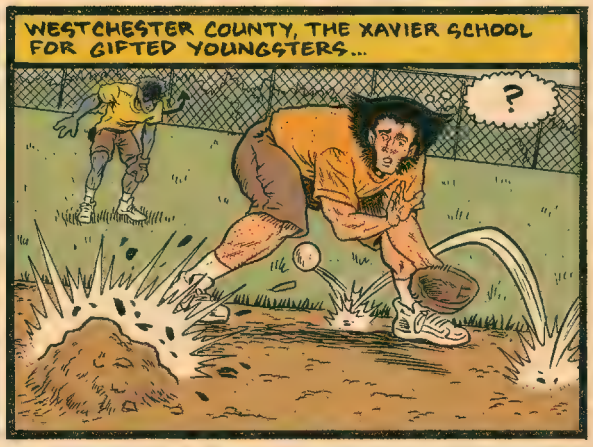
DID YOU LET THE ONE GET AWAY?

I THOUGHT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO LET IT ESCAPE?


HE WENT INTO THE TUNNELS OVER THERE. DON'T WORRY.
GOOD. ONLY A MATTER OF TIME, THEN.


>Pant Pant<

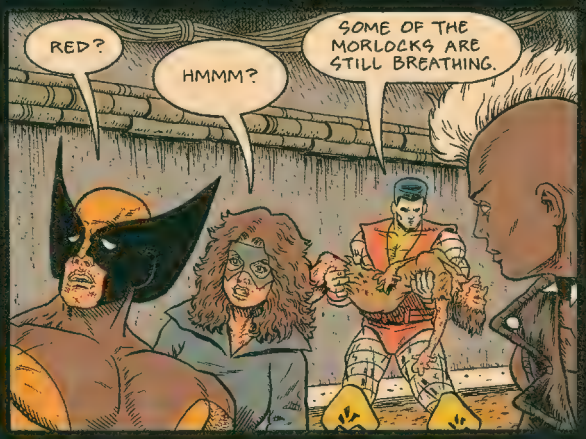
>Pant Wheeze<


WESTCHESTER COUNTY, THE XAVIER SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS...
?

HEAVENS!
Master...
...Below...

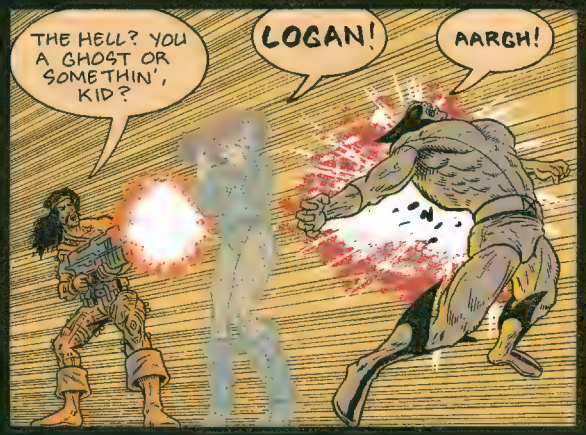
...the others...
HE'S... GONE...

WE'RE GETTING CLOSER, RIGHT, WOLVIE?
>Sniff Sniff< YUP...
WHO WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS? WHY?

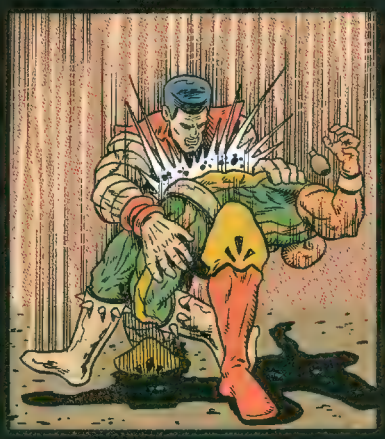

RED?
HMMM?
SOME OF THE MORLOCKS ARE STILL BREATHING.

C'MON OUT HERE NOW, YA MUTTS!!
LET'S GO!

UGH!

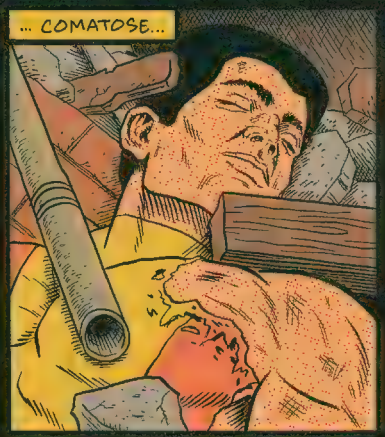

THE HELL? YOU A GHOST OR SOMETHIN', KID?
LOGAN!
AARGH!

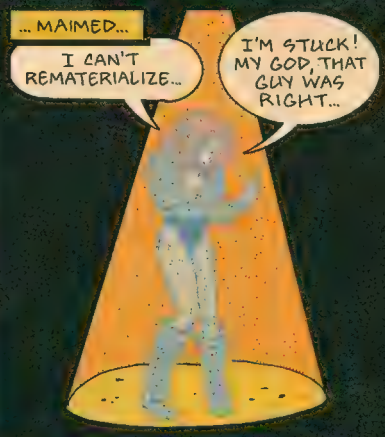
ONE MORE NOTCH ON MY BELT.

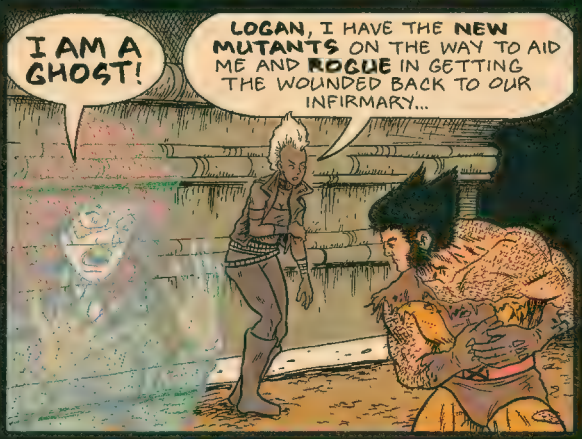


WHAT HE DROP?
AH, GUYS... GUYS!

THE SURVIVING MARAUDERS ESCAPE THE ALLEY WITH EASE, LEAVING THE X-MEN SHATTERED...
Sleep... Wanna sleep...
So cold...

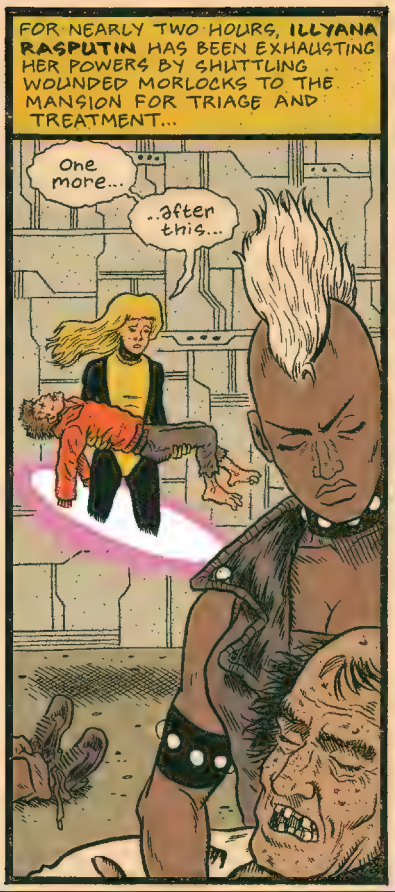

... COMATOSE...


... MAIMED...
I CAN'T REMATERIALIZE...
I'M STUCK! MY GOD, THAT GUY WAS RIGHT...

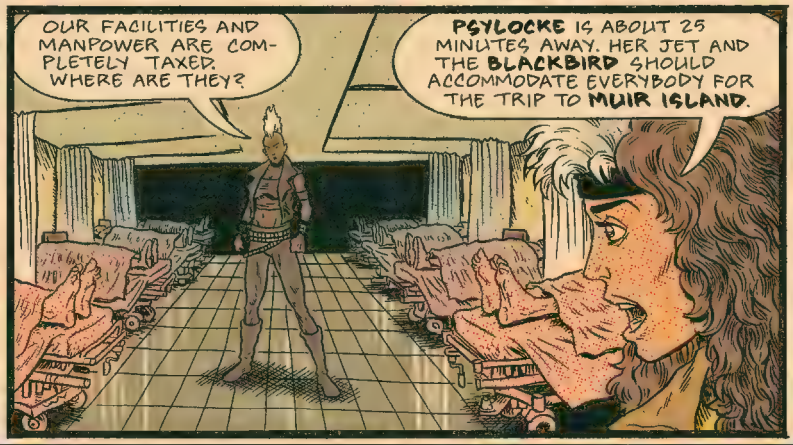

I AM A GHOST!
LOGAN, I HAVE THE NEW MUTANTS ON THE WAY TO AID ME AND ROGUE IN GETTING THE WOUNDED BACK TO OUR INFIRMARY...

... I ORDER YOU TO PUSH ON AND BRING ME A MARAUDER FOR QUESTIONING.
NO PROB.

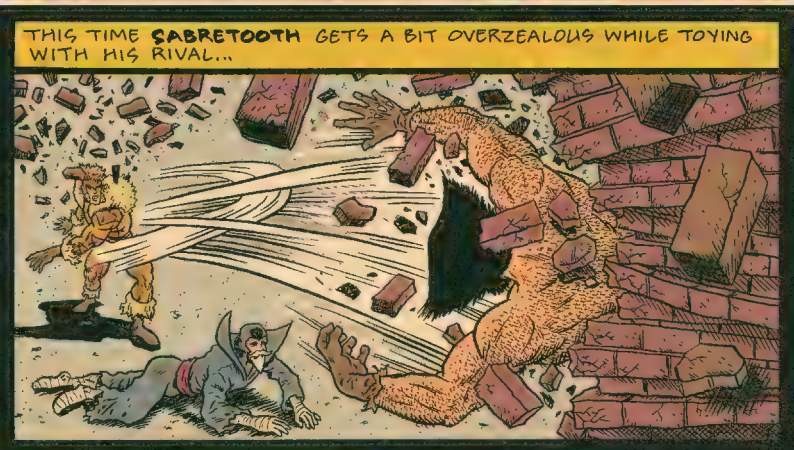
... AND, LOGAN, THEY ONLY NEED TO SPEAK. THEY WON'T REQUIRE ARMS OR LEGS TO TALK.


FOR NEARLY TWO HOURS, ILLYANA RASPUTIN HAS BEEN EXHAUSTING HER POWERS BY SHUTTLING WOUNDED MORLOCKS TO THE MANSION FOR TRIAGE AND TREATMENT...
One more...
..after this...

YOU'RE DONE, CHILD. WOLVERINE WILL COME BACK WITH THE LAST MORLOCK.
ILLYANA, WE NEED TO GET YOU HYDRATED.
WE'LL FIX YOU UP, BRUTUS-BABE! DON'TCHA SWEAT IT!
Huff puff


OUR FACILITIES AND MANPOWER ARE COMPLETELY TAXED. WHERE ARE THEY?
PSYLOCKE IS ABOUT 25 MINUTES AWAY. HER JET AND THE BLACKBIRD SHOULD ACCOMMODATE EVERYBODY FOR THE TRIP TO MUIR ISLAND.

THE ALLEY. WOLVERINE IS REACQUAINTED WITH A FOE FROM HIS DISTANT PAST AND THE RESULTS ARE THE SAME AS THEY EVER WERE.


THIS TIME SABRETOOTH GETS A BIT OVERZEALOUS WHILE TOYING WITH HIS RIVAL...

A FEW TOO MANY LOAD-BEARING WALLS ARE DESTROYED IN THE MELEE.

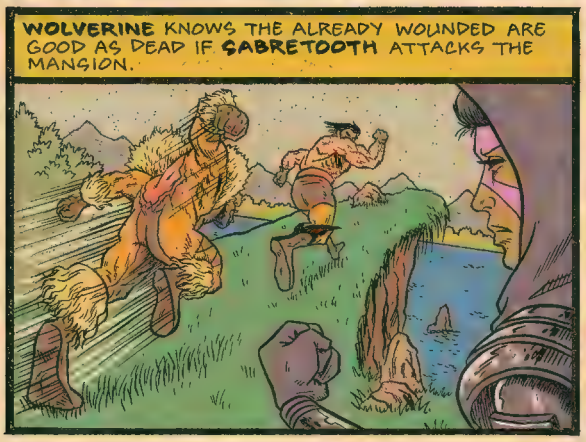
YER NEEDED BADLY AT THE MANSION, HEALER.

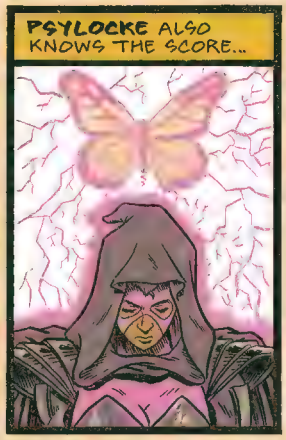
THEY DID A NUMBER ON 'IM BEFORE I GOT THERE. WHO DO WE GOT THAT CAN HEAL THE **HEALER**?
WHAT IS IT, **PSYLOCKE**?

I SENSE... SOMEONE WAS TRAILING **WOLVERINE** THROUGH THE TUNNELS!

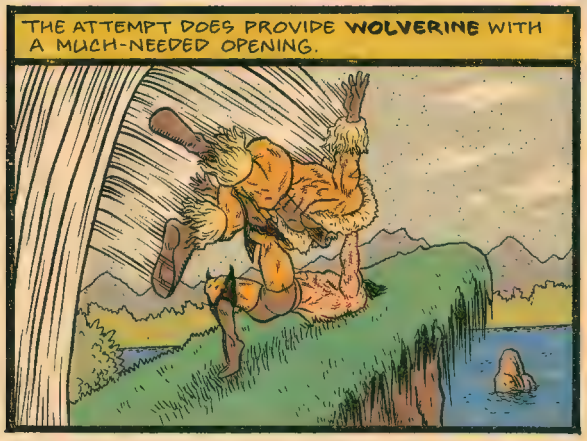
SNIFF SNIFF! GET EVERYONE INSIDE AN' BATTEN DOWN THE HATCHES!

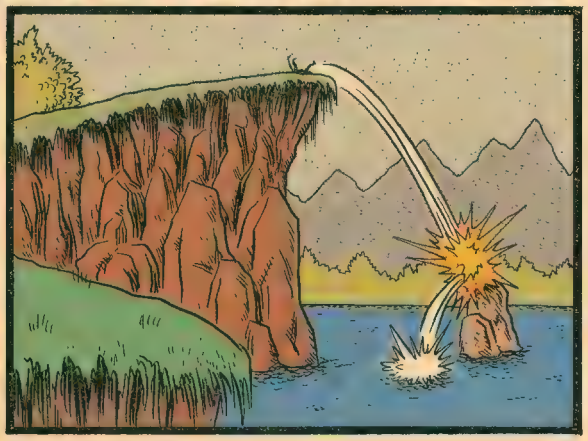
TAG! YER IT!


WOLVERINE KNOWS THE ALREADY WOUNDED ARE GOOD AS DEAD IF **SABRETOOTH** ATTACKS THE MANSION.


PSYLOCKE ALSO KNOWS THE SCORE...

SHE CAN'T QUITE PENETRATE HIS MIND...


THE ATTEMPT DOES PROVIDE **WOLVERINE** WITH A MUCH-NEEDED OPENING.



THE CONSPIRACY TO KILL MUTANTS HAS LEFT THE **X-MEN** UNDER-STAFFED AND OVERWHELMED...

WHATTA DUMP!

THAT'S THE PLACE.

315 OMFUG 315

DAZZLER IS HIGH ON THE LIST OF MUTANTS THAT THE **X-MEN** NEED TO WARN AND RECRUIT.

BY THE TIME THE **X-MEN** REACH THE BOWERY, **DAZZLER** IS BUSY SEARING THE EYEBALLS OF THE PEOPLE WHO PAID TO HEAR HER SING.

...SOME--SOME KIND OF INCORPOREAL MUTANT HAS POSSESSED **ALISON**!

THE **MARAUDER** CALLED **MALICE** HAD BEEN FORCING **DAZZLER** TO DO THINGS AGAINST HER WILL FOR DAYS NOW.

MALICE CAN ONLY READ THE THOUGHTS OF THOSE SHE'S TAKEN CONTROL OVER.

PSYLOCKE BEGINS THE DELICATE WORK OF PURGING THE EVIL SPECTER FROM THE UNCONSCIOUS **DAZZLER**.

THE TEAM WILL HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT CAPTURING AND CONTAINING **MALICE** AT A LATER DATE NOW THAT THEY KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DEALING WITH.

I'LL CALL THE AMBO FOR THESE PEOPLE.

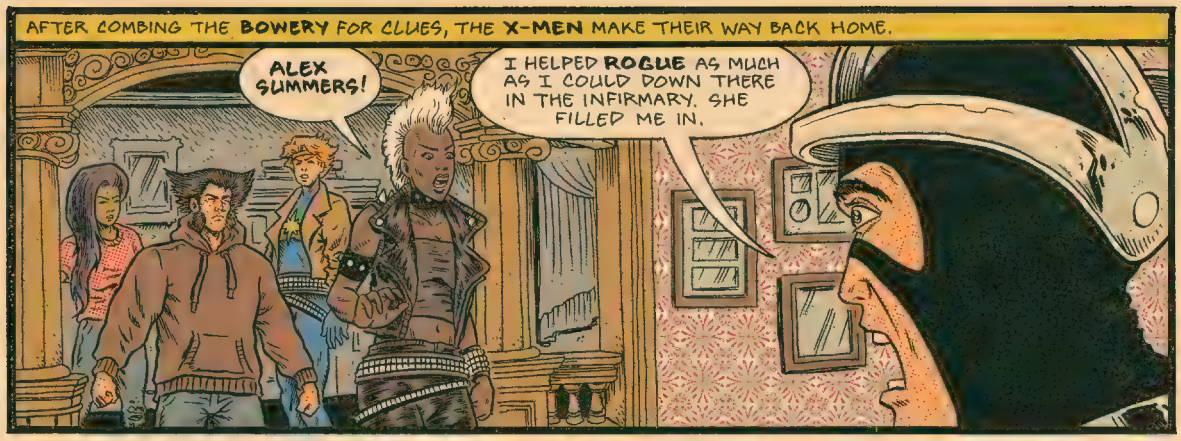
>Sigh< SURE, I'LL HELP.

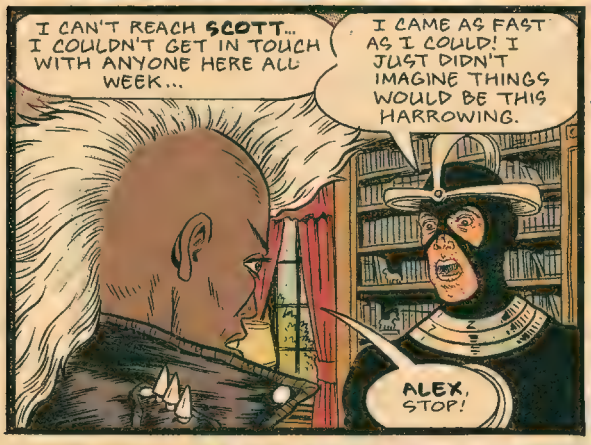
DON'T THINK I HAVE A CHOICE IN THE MATTER ANYMORE.

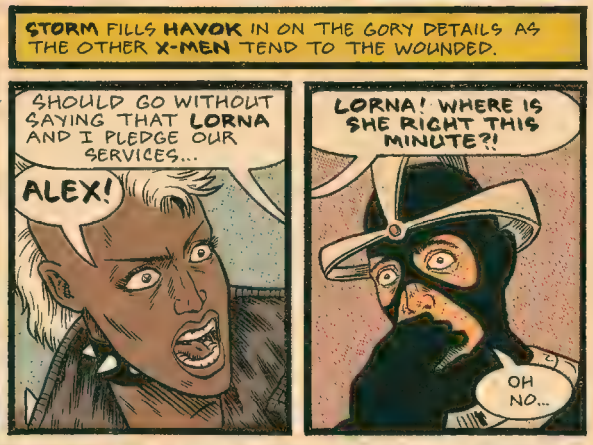
ACROSS THE COUNTRY, **MADELYNE PRYOR** EMERGES FROM HER COMA IN A **SAN FRANCISCO** HOSPITAL.

...MY BABY.

WHERE'S MY BABY?


AFTER COMBING THE BOWERY FOR CLUES, THE X-MEN MAKE THEIR WAY BACK HOME.
ALEX SUMMERS!
I HELPED ROGUE AS MUCH AS I COULD DOWN THERE IN THE INFIRMARY. SHE FILLED ME IN.


I CAN'T REACH SCOTT... I COULDN'T GET IN TOUCH WITH ANYONE HERE ALL WEEK...
I CAME AS FAST AS I COULD! I JUST DIDN'T IMAGINE THINGS WOULD BE THIS HARROWING.
ALEX, STOP!


STORM FILLS HAVOK IN ON THE GORY DETAILS AS THE OTHER X-MEN TEND TO THE WOUNDED.
SHOULD GO WITHOUT SAYING THAT LORNA AND I PLEDGE OUR SERVICES...
ALEX!
LORNA! WHERE IS SHE RIGHT THIS MINUTE?!
OH NO...

NEW MEXICO...
HMMM... YOU'RE STRONGER THAN DAZZLER ANYHOW.
WELCOME TO THE MARAUDERS, CUPCAKE.

MOIRA MacTAGGERT HAS HER FACILITIES ON MUIR ISLAND STERILIZED, PREPPED AND READY TO HELP THE MORLOCK SURVIVORS OF THE MUTANT MASSACRE.

JAMIE, WE'RE GONNA NEED AS MANY HELPIN' HANDS AS YE C'N SPARE.

I CAN SPLIT INTO A DOZEN BEFORE I GET WOOZY, DR. MACK.

THE X-MEN SPRING SOME MORE BAD NEWS ONCE THEY ARRIVE.

MY LORD, WHAT A TIME FER HA'F Y'UR SQUAD TEH BE ON TH' SIDELINES!

LONGSHOT, A MYSTERIOUS ALIEN GUEST ON THE ISLAND, PLEDGES ALLEGIANCE TO THE X-MEN'S MISSION. HE IS ACCEPTED INTO THE FOLD AFTER A THOROUGH MIND SCAN VIA PSYLOCKE...

BANSHEE SEVERELY HURT HIS THROAT HELPING ME TO SAFETY OR ELSE HE'D SURELY JOIN US TOO.

THREE FINGERS!

STOP STARING, LOGAN.

WHAT A RAGTAG BUNCHA CUSSES.

THEY'RE YOURS TO DIRECT. I NAME YOU LEADER IN MY ABSENCE...

YOU KIDDIN'?! YER GONNA BAIL ON US AGAIN? WHEN WE'RE AT OUR WEAKEST?

FOR ME TO BE TRULY EFFECTIVE I MUST FIND FORGE AND PRESS HIM TO RESTORE MY MUTANT GIFT. FULL STRENGTH!

DEEP DOWN **STORM** KNEW SHE WOULD HAVE TO REVISIT **FREEDOM TOWER** BUT NOT THIS SOON...

SHE DIDN'T SPOT A SOUL IN THE LOBBY. THERE WAS NO ONE OPERATING THE ELEVATOR. ONCE **ORORO** HITS THE PENTHOUSE, THERE IS STILL NO **FORGE**.

NAZE?

WHERE IS HE?

BACK IN THE WAR... OUR PLATOON, WE WERE ALL PINNED DOWN. HURT BAD! YOU SAW YOUR BOYFRIEND'S LEG AND HAND? WELL, HE DESPERATELY USED OUR COMBINED LIFE FORCES TO SUMMON AN ANCIENT SPIRIT FROM OUR TRIBE TO HELP SAVE US. HE SCREWED UP.

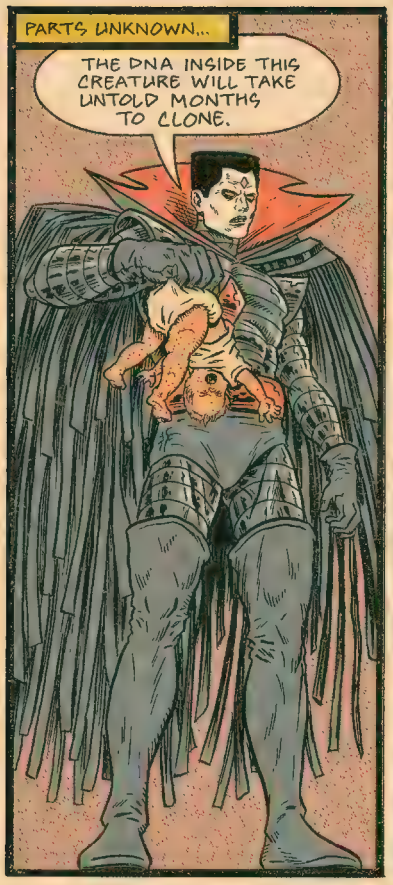
NAZE DESCRIBES HOW **FORGE** BECAME CORRUPTED BY THE DEMON HE AROUSED, PUTTING HIM ON A COURSE TO OPEN THE NETHERWORLD UPON **EARTH** TO GRAZE.

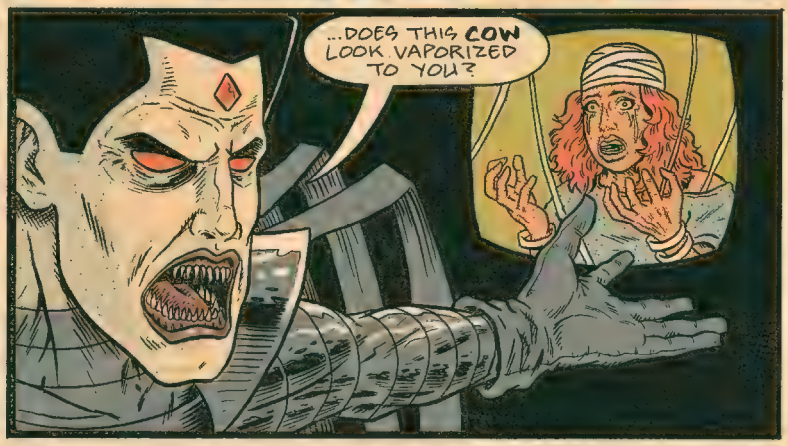
I'M CASHING IN MY DEBT FROM SAVING YOUR HIDE A FEW MONTHS BACK, GIRLY.

I'M TOO OLD. NOT SURE IF I CAN STOP **FORGE** ON MY OWN.

WE'LL HAVE TO HIKE THE **SPIRIT PATH** AND STOP HIM BEFORE HE DOES IRREVERSIBLE DAMAGE.

HE'S NOT MY "BOYFRIEND."

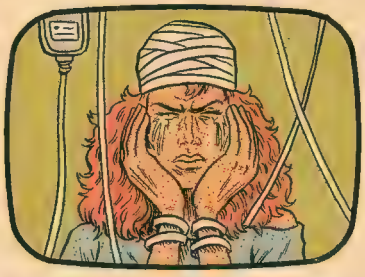


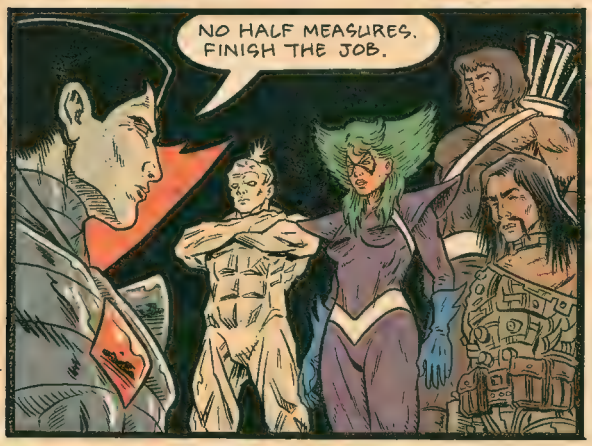


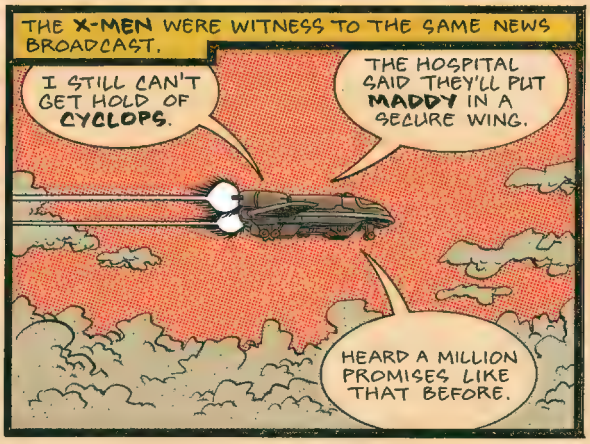
"...THANKFULLY THEY ASSURE ME THAT MY BABY WASN'T... AMONG THE WRECKAGE..."

"WE'RE DESPERATE FOR INFORMATION. ANYBODY WITH LEADS, PLEASE, I IMPLORE YOU TO CONTACT THE HOSPITAL. I NEED MY LITTLE **NATHANIEL**..."

">sob<... IT'S ALL A BLANK... THE PLANE CRASH."

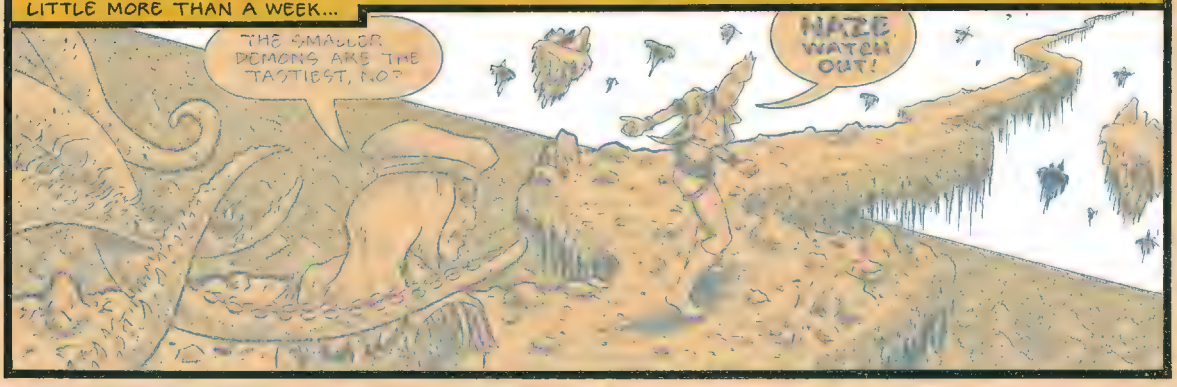






IT'S RARE THAT THE X-MEN ARE AFFORDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO PREEMPT A VILLAINOUS PLOT.
AWRIGHT. DEFENSIVE POSITIONS!
FAN OUT, NERDS.
THEY ONLY BEAT THE MARAUDERS TO MADELYNE PRYOR BY A FEW CRUCIAL MINUTES.
STAY LOW, MADDY!!
POLARIS?
LET'S GO, TOOTS.
THE GROUND FORCES OF THE MARAUDERS ARE FORCED TO RETREAT WHEN THE SUPER WOMEN TAKE TO THE SKY.
UH-UH, SHUGAH!
YOU OKAY, MADDY?
I THINK SO.
LORNA?
STOP IT ALREADY, SUMMERS. SHE GOT AWAY.
PSYLOCKE RESPECTFULLY DOESN'T VENTURE VERY FAR INTO THE PAST WHILE SHE PSYCHICALLY RESTORES MADELYNE'S FRACTURED MEMORY.
We--we have to save... LORNA!
GET A GRIP, BUB.
MY BABY...
THEY HAVE NATHANIEL!

TIME WORKS DIFFERENTLY ALONG THE SPIRIT PATHWAY. SOMETIMES THE DAYLIGHT LASTS LONGER THAN 24 HOURS. SOMETIMES NOT. **STORM** WOULD WAGER THAT SHE AND **NAZE** HAVE BEEN TRAVERSING THE INCLINE FOR LITTLE MORE THAN A WEEK...



EACH DAY OF TRAVEL WORKS JUST ABOUT THE SAME FOR THE DUO, THOUGH EITHER OF THEM COULD FIND THEMSELVES IN THE ROLE OF THE VICTIM AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE.

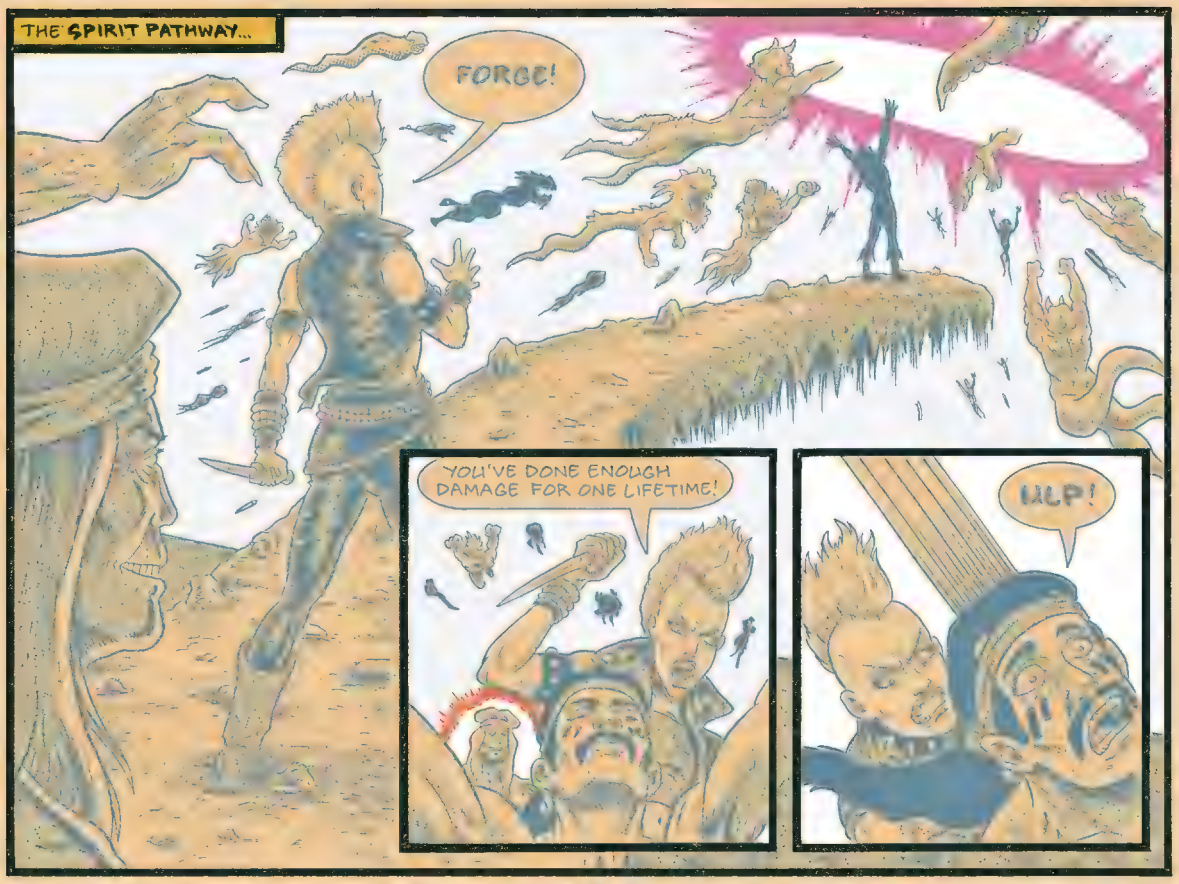
NEITHER WOULD HAVE GOTTEN VERY FAR WITHOUT THE OTHER.

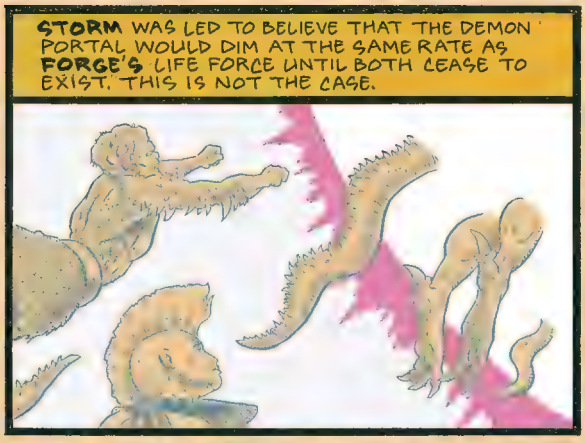
WHEN THE RARE NIGHT'S COME, THEY USUALLY KILL ENOUGH DEMONS TO REST IN INTERVALS.

ONCE RECHARGED THEY CONTINUE TO INCH CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THEIR TARGET.

WHENEVER POSSIBLE, **NAZE** WOULD REINFORCE HIS THOUGHTS ABOUT **FORGE'S** CRUELTY.

MUIR ISLAND. WHILE ON A SUPPLY RUN FOR THE MORLOCK SURVIVORS OF THE MUTANT MASSACRE...
ROGUE!
MOMMA! HOW'D YOU...
YOU'RE NEVER OUT OF MY SIGHT, KIDDO. THAT'S SORT OF WHY I'M CHIMING IN. I CAME INTO SOME POTENTIALLY CATASTROPHIC INTELLIGENCE... I THINK YOU AND YOUR... FRIENDS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT IT.
MYSTIQUE TELLS HER ADOPTED DAUGHTER ABOUT A VISION OF THE FUTURE FORESEEN BY DESTINY, THE BROTHERHOOD'S NEWEST MEMBER.
FREEDOM TOWER... IN ORDER TO SAVE HUMANITY, THE... X-MEN MUST PERISH...
AFTER GIVING MYSTIQUE SUFFICIENT TIME TO MAKE HER GETAWAY, ROGUE PONDEROUSLY SHUFFLES BACK TO MOIRA MacTAGGERT'S MAIN LABORATORY FOR AN ALL-HANDS-ON-DECK MEETING.
CLEARLY A TRAP.
MORE THAN THAT, IT'S A THREAT! SOMEHOW THEY KNOW STORM'S AT FREEDOM TOWER.
SURE YOU'RE HEALTHY ENOUGH TO JOIN US, COLOSSUS?
I'LL BE COMING ALONG TOO.
IF THERE'S A CHANCE THE MARAUDERS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS, THEN I WANT IN.

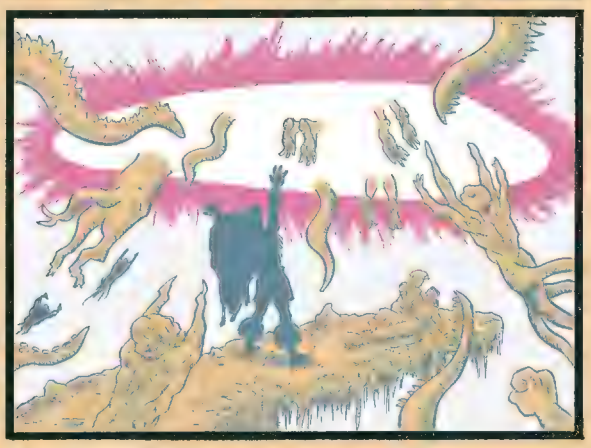

THE SPIRIT PATHWAY...
FORGE!
YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH DAMAGE FOR ONE LIFETIME!
ULP!


STORM WAS LED TO BELIEVE THAT THE DEMON PORTAL WOULD DIM AT THE SAME RATE AS FORGE'S LIFE FORCE UNTIL BOTH CEASE TO EXIST. THIS IS NOT THE CASE.

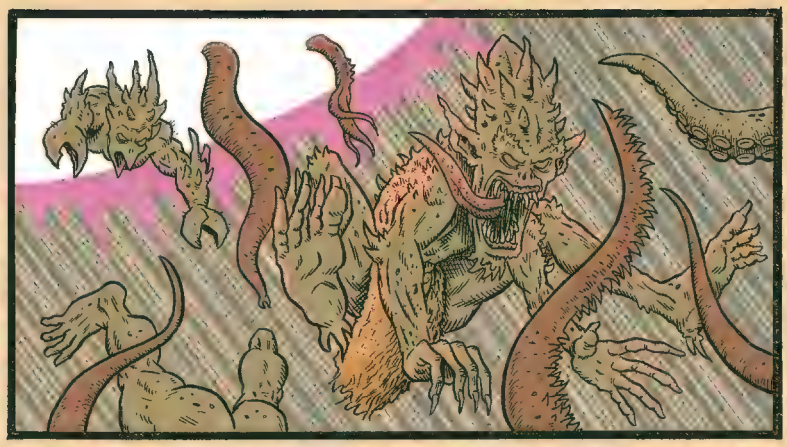
I wasn't strong enough...
to close the portal
HA HA..
...couldn't do it on my own...

HEH HSH HEH...

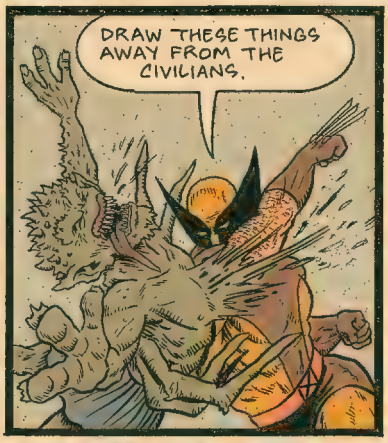
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!



EAGLE PLAZA, FREEDOM TOWER. JUST WHEN THE X-MEN ARRIVE TO CONFRONT THE AWAITING MEMBERS OF THE BROTHERHOOD.
YOU DOING THAT IN THE SKY, DAZZLER?
NOT ME.



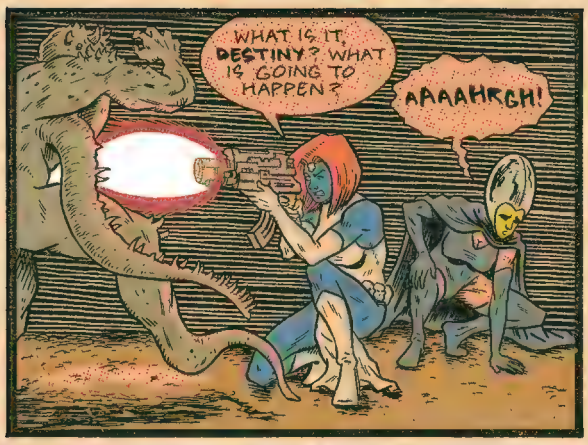
AWRIGHT, BLUE BERRY, LOOKS LIKE YA WEREN'T LYIN'.
THANKS FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT BEFORE WE DIE.


DRAW THESE THINGS AWAY FROM THE CIVILIANS.

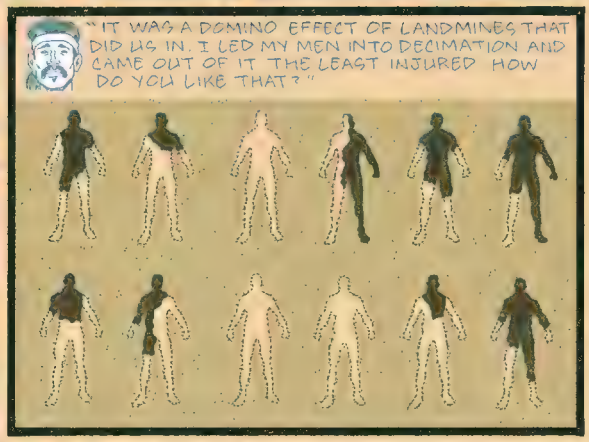
KILL ONE AND TEN MORE SHOW UP.

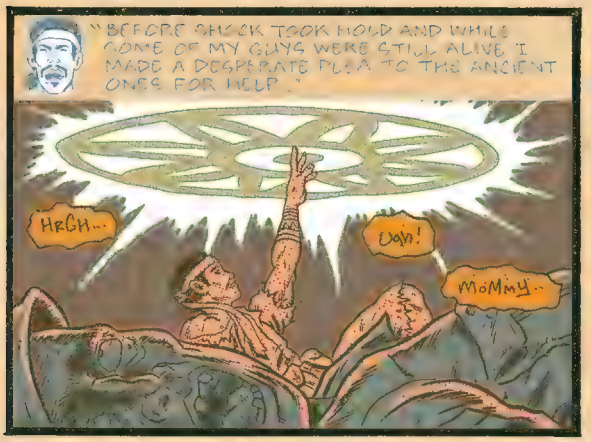
GET A GOOD, TIGHT SHOT ON THE MUTIES.

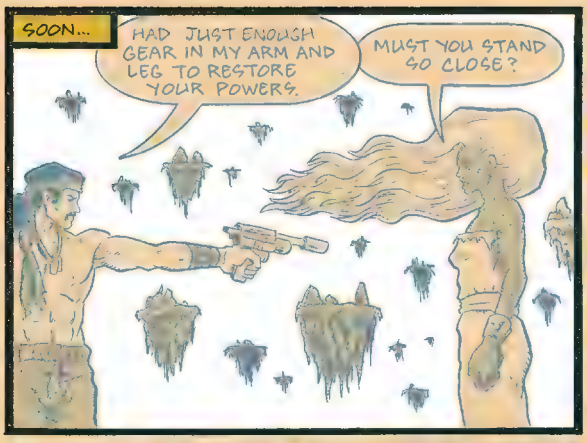
THIS IS THE KIND OF JOURNALISM THAT WINS AWARDS.

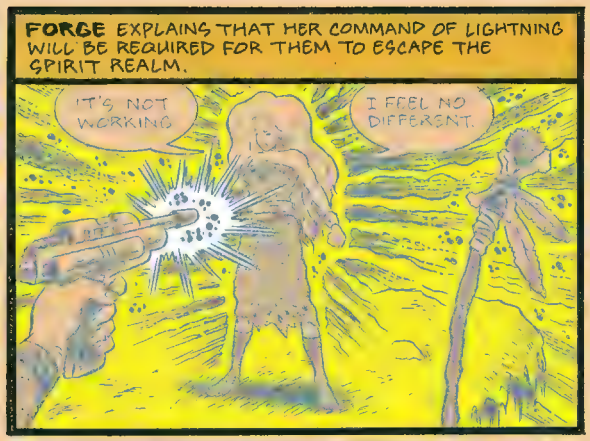


STORM AND **FORGE** HAVE BEEN MAROONED IN THE SPIRIT REALM FOR WHAT FEELS LIKE MONTHS--ENOUGH TIME FOR **FORGE** TO HEAL FROM HIS WOUNDS. ONLY A FEW HOURS HAVE PASSED IN **EARTH TIME**.





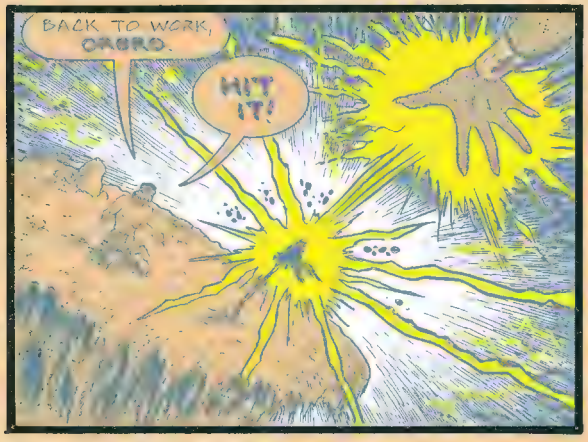

SOON...
HAD JUST ENOUGH GEAR IN MY ARM AND LEG TO RESTORE YOUR POWERS.
MUST YOU STAND SO CLOSE?


FORGE EXPLAINS THAT HER COMMAND OF LIGHTNING WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THEM TO ESCAPE THE SPIRIT REALM.
IT'S NOT WORKING
I FEEL NO DIFFERENT.

IT BETTER WORK.
HEY!

UH-OH
AAAAAAAAH!

GAIA!


BACK TO WORK, ORORO.
HIT IT!

FOR BEING LONG OUT OF PRACTICE, STORM'S DIRECT HIT STRUCK PERFECTLY ON TIME TO LAUNCH THEM THROUGH A SUPERHIGHWAY TO THE OMNIVERSE.

BROADCAST AROUND THE GLOBE FROM FREEDOM TOWER...
KITTY PRYDE RETURNED TO HER CORPOREAL FORM THANKS TO MOIRA MacTAGGERT, BUT SHE'S FAR TOO WEAK TO LEAVE MUIR ISLAND, UNFORTUNATELY.
ONE OF THEM LOOKS FREE! SIR! SIR!
"YOU'RE AN X-MAN, CORRECT? WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE? DID ONE OF YOUR EXPERIMENTS GET OUT OF CONTROL?"
"IF WE DON'T SURVIVE ON THIS DAY, KATYA, ILLYANA, MOTHER, FATHER I LOVE YOU ALL."
SOMETHING'S GOING ON INSIDE FREEDOM TOWER.
WE'RE GOING IN! YOU AN' YOUR GUYS HAVE THINGS COVERED OUT HERE, MYSTIQUE?
"NO PROBLEM, SHRIMP."
MOMENTS AFTER THE X-MEN ENTER THE LOBBY OF FREEDOM TOWER.
"ROGUE! MY BABY IS IN THERE!"
THERE IS AN EERIE SILENCE AMONGST THE RUBBLE.

THE **OMNIVERSE**. **FORCE** AND **STORM** CHANNEL A REUNION WITH THE **X-MEN** ON THIS PLANE OF EXISTENCE IN HOPES OF SQUELCHING **THE TRICKSTER'S** EARTHBOUND DEMON INVASION.

WE'LL NEED THE **READER'S DIGEST** VERSION, **STORM**...

THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN REVERSE THE MADNESS IS **ROMA**, THE KEEPER OF THIS REALM.

NAZE HAS DONE SOMETHING TO HER.

HE'S JUST BEEN UP THERE SNEERING... WAITING US OUT.

PSYLOCKE, CAN YOU PULL ANY INTEL FROM HIS MELON SO WE C'N FIGURE OUT WHERE TO START?

UGH! I... CAN'T...

HOWEVER, ONE DOESN'T NEED TELEPATHY TO NOTICE HOW **TRICKSTER** WINCED WHEN **COLOSSUS** TOOK HIS METALLIC FORM...

GOTCHA.

LONGSHOT! FASTBALL SPECIAL!

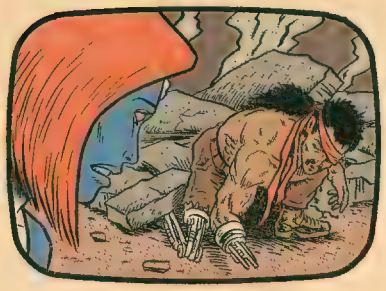
>HUFF<

EEEEEEEEEE!

ROGUE SPOTS AN OPENING WHEN THE ADVERSARY IS FORCED TO REVEAL ITS TRUE FORM.
THE PORTAL SHE GENERATES USING THE ADVERSARY'S POWERS COULD SEND HIM AWAY FOR GOOD IF ONLY HE WERE WEAK ENOUGH TO BE PUSHED THROUGH IT.
WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO KILL THIS THING, FORGE?
THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE, I'M AFRAID.
UNLIKE FORGE'S WARTIME EXPERIENCE, HE RECEIVES PERMISSION FROM HIS COMRADES TO SURRENDER THEIR LIFE FORCES FOR THE SURVIVAL OF HUMANITY...
FEW VILLAINS WOULD BE ABLE TO DEFEND AGAINST THE TOTALITY OF THE X-MEN'S COMBINED SPIRIT.
GREEEEEEEE!!

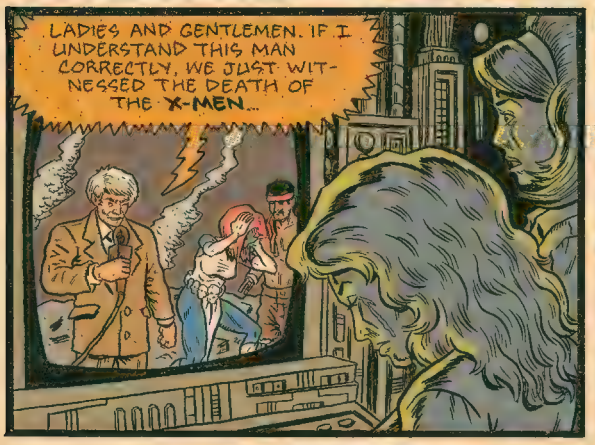
DEFEATING **ADVERSARY** IMMEDIATELY TRIGGERS THE WITHDRAWAL OF MOST DEMONS FROM EARTH BACK TO LIMBO. NEWS CAMERAS AT **FREEDOM TOWER** CONTINUE TO UPDATE THE WORLD.

"**WAIT**... SOMETHING IS SHUFFLING IN THE RUBBLE. LET'S GET A CLOSER LOOK."

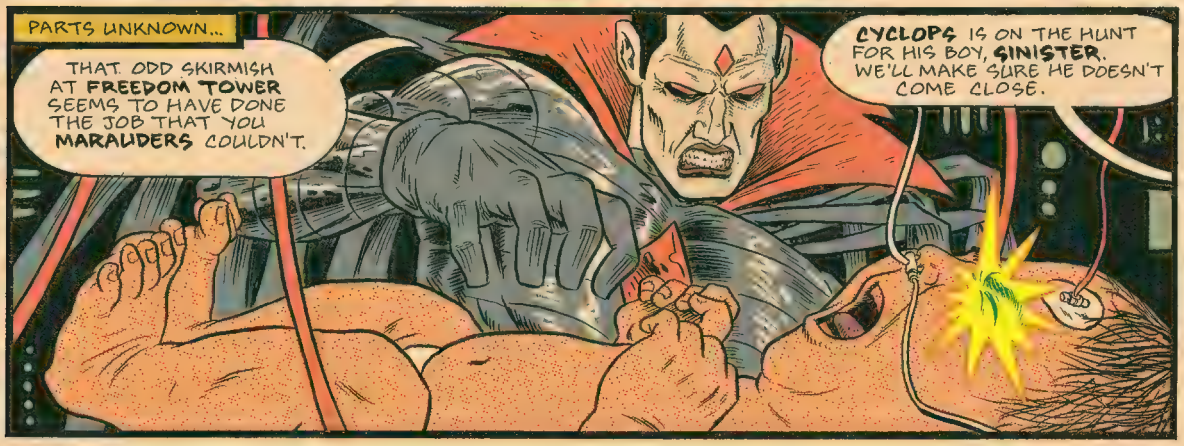

"**FORGE?**"

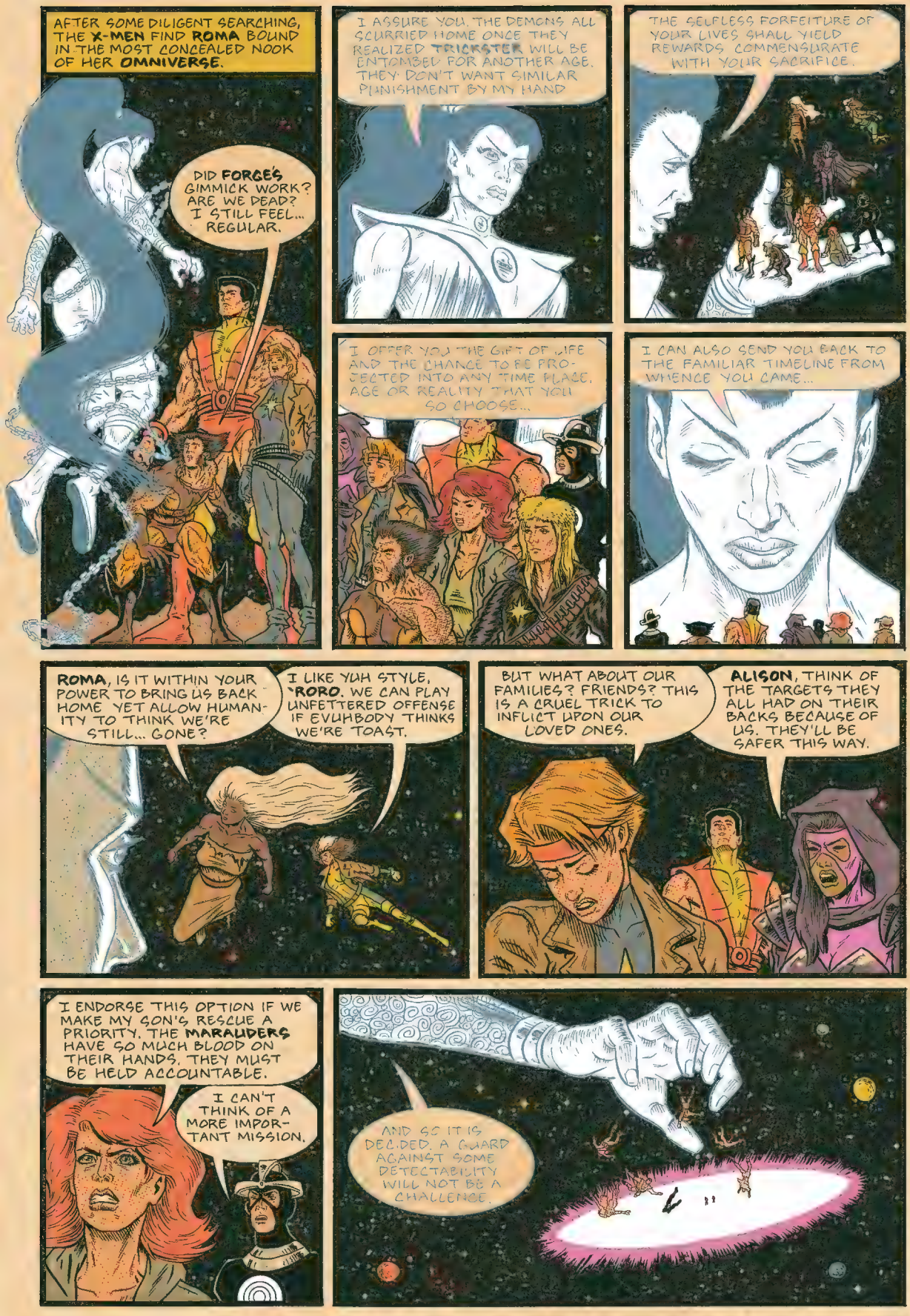
"WHERE ARE THE **X-MEN**? **ROGUE**? DID YOU SEE **ROGUE** IN THERE? **FORGE**, ANSWER ME."

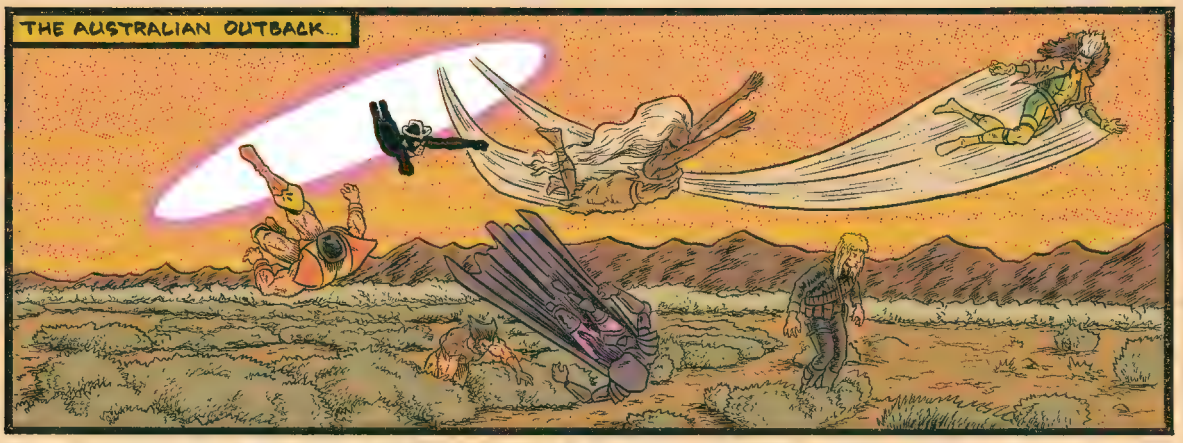
SHE... THEY WON'T BE COMING BACK, **MYSTIQUE**. I'M SORRY."

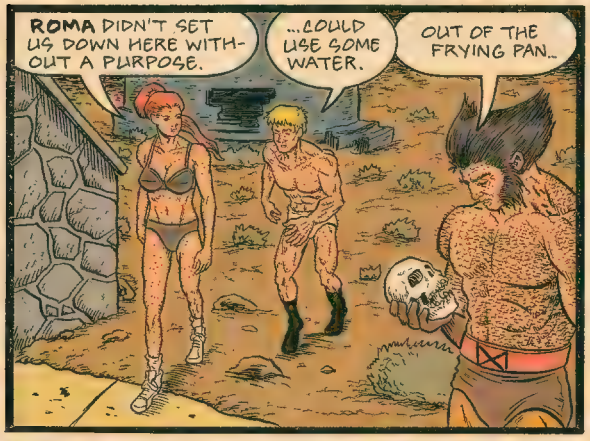

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. IF I UNDERSTAND THIS MAN CORRECTLY, WE JUST WITNESSED THE DEATH OF THE **X-MEN**...

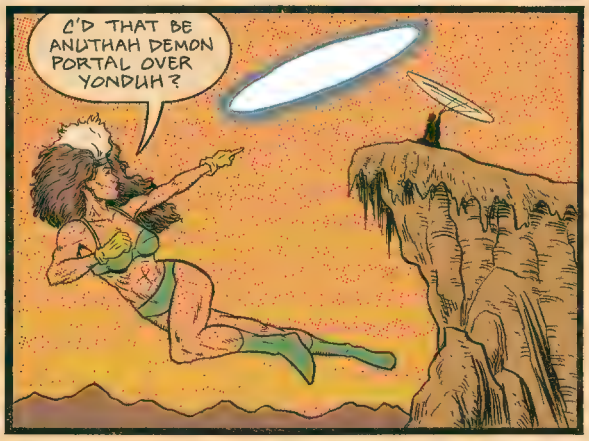
...WE SHALL FOREVER REMEMBER WHERE WE WERE ON THIS VERY DAY...

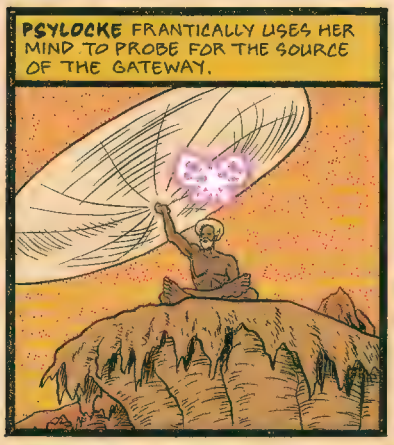

PARTS UNKNOWN...
THAT ODD SKIRMISH AT **FREEDOM TOWER** SEEMS TO HAVE DONE THE JOB THAT YOU **MARAUDERS** COULDN'T.
CYCLOPS IS ON THE HUNT FOR HIS BOY, **SINISTER**. WE'LL MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T COME CLOSE.

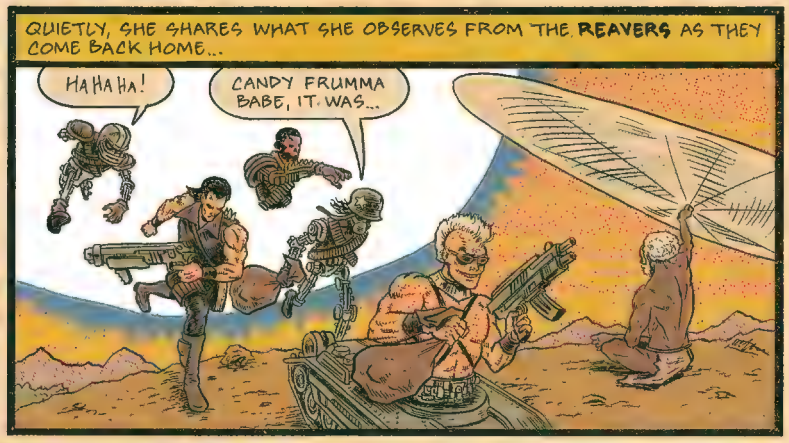

AFTER SOME DILIGENT SEARCHING, THE X-MEN FIND ROMA BOUND IN THE MOST CONCEALED NOOK OF HER OMNIVERSE.
DID FORGE'S GIMMICK WORK? ARE WE DEAD? I STILL FEEL... REGULAR.
I ASSURE YOU. THE DEMONS ALL SCURRIED HOME ONCE THEY REALIZED TRICKSTER WILL BE ENTOMBED FOR ANOTHER AGE. THEY DON'T WANT SIMILAR PUNISHMENT BY MY HAND
THE SELFLESS FORFEITURE OF YOUR LIVES SHALL YIELD REWARDS COMMENSURATE WITH YOUR SACRIFICE.
I OFFER YOU THE GIFT OF LIFE AND THE CHANCE TO BE PROJECTED INTO ANY TIME PLACE, AGE OR REALITY THAT YOU SO CHOOSE...
I CAN ALSO SEND YOU BACK TO THE FAMILIAR TIMELINE FROM WHENCE YOU CAME...
ROMA, IS IT WITHIN YOUR POWER TO BRING US BACK HOME YET ALLOW HUMANITY TO THINK WE'RE STILL... GONE?
I LIKE YUH STYLE, 'RORO. WE CAN PLAY UNFETTERED OFFENSE IF EVUHBODY THINKS WE'RE TOAST.
BUT WHAT ABOUT OUR FAMILIES? FRIENDS? THIS IS A CRUEL TRICK TO INFLICT UPON OUR LOVED ONES.
ALISON, THINK OF THE TARGETS THEY ALL HAD ON THEIR BACKS BECAUSE OF US. THEY'LL BE SAFER THIS WAY.
I ENDORSE THIS OPTION IF WE MAKE MY SON'S RESCUE A PRIORITY. THE MARAUDERS HAVE SO MUCH BLOOD ON THEIR HANDS. THEY MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE.
I CAN'T THINK OF A MORE IMPORTANT MISSION.
AND SO IT IS DECIDED. A GUARD AGAINST SOME DETECTABILITY WILL NOT BE A CHALLENGE.

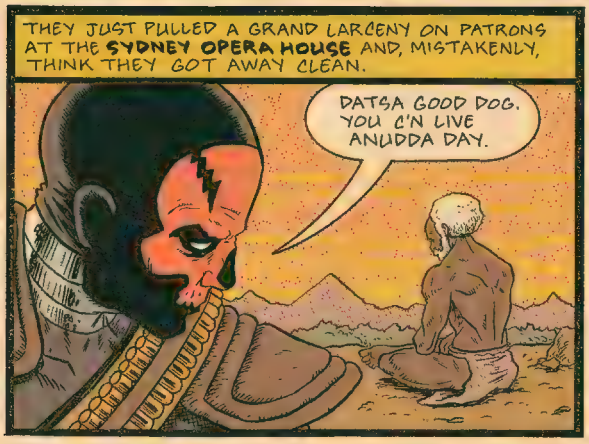

THE AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK...

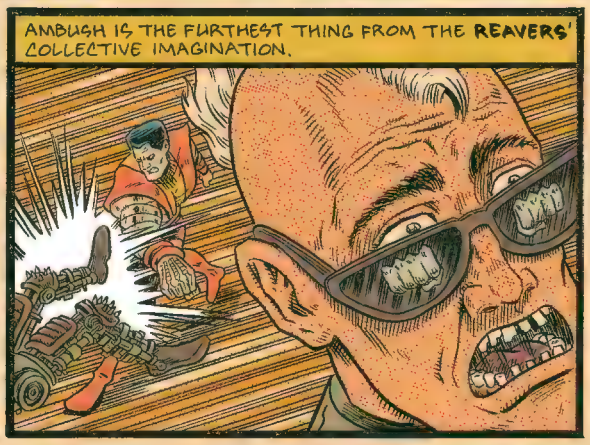

ROMA DIDN'T SET US DOWN HERE WITHOUT A PURPOSE.
...COULD USE SOME WATER.
OUT OF THE FRYING PAN...

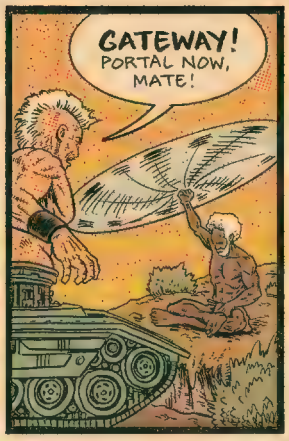

C'D THAT BE ANUTHAH DEMON PORTAL OVER YONDUH?

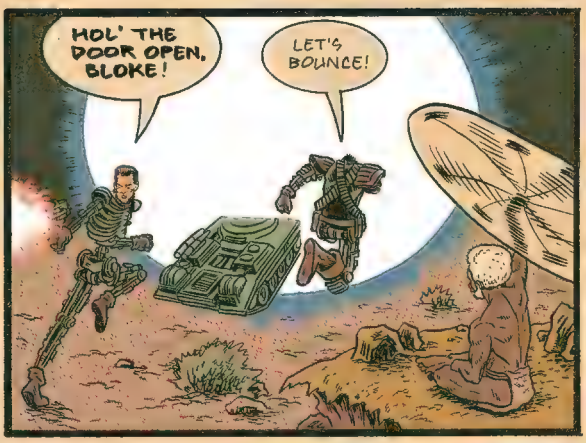

PSYLOCKE FRANTICALLY USES HER MIND TO PROBE FOR THE SOURCE OF THE GATEWAY.

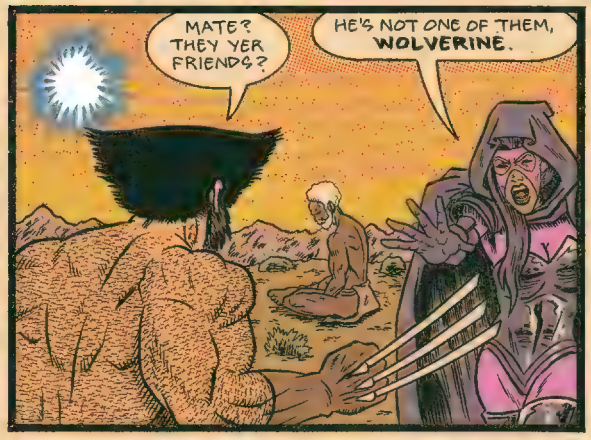

QUIETLY, SHE SHARES WHAT SHE OBSERVES FROM THE REAVERS AS THEY COME BACK HOME...
HAHAHA!
CANDY FRUMMA BABE, IT WAS...

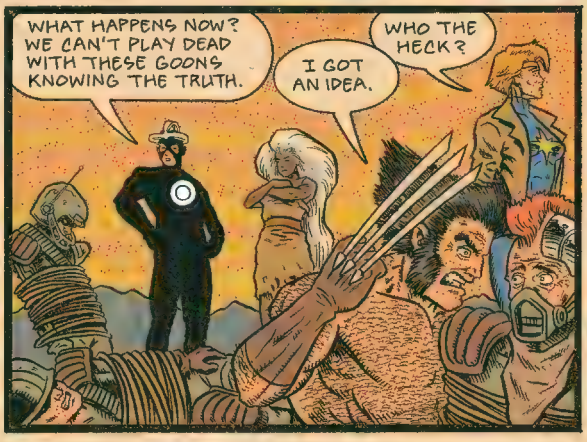

THEY JUST PULLED A GRAND LARCENY ON PATRONS AT THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE AND, MISTAKENLY, THINK THEY GOT AWAY CLEAN.
DATSA GOOD DOG. YOU C'N LIVE ANUDDA DAY.

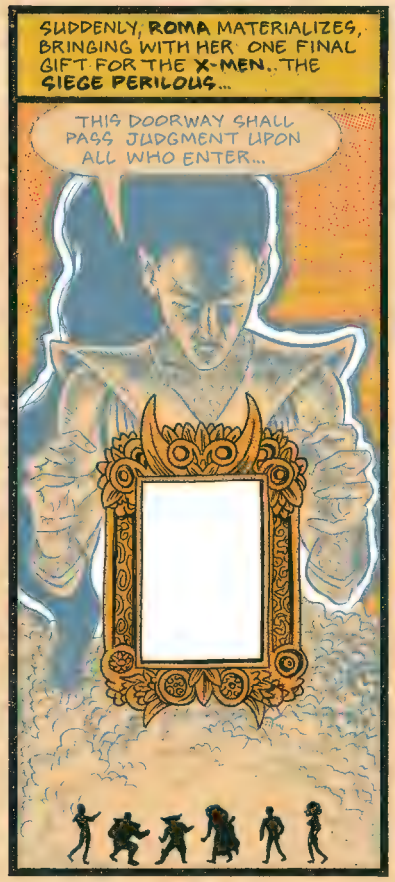

AMBUSH IS THE FURTHEST THING FROM THE REAVERS' COLLECTIVE IMAGINATION.


GATEWAY! PORTAL NOW, MATE!


HOL' THE DOOR OPEN, BLOKE!
LET'S BOUNCE!


MATE? THEY YER FRIENDS?
HE'S NOT ONE OF THEM, WOLVERINE.

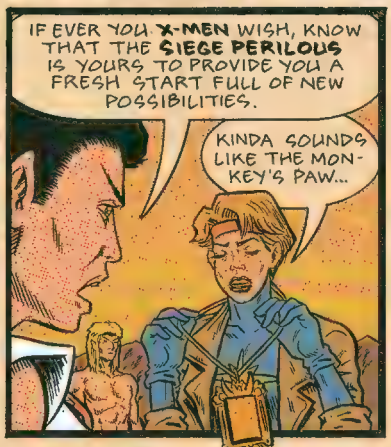

WHAT HAPPENS NOW? WE CAN'T PLAY DEAD WITH THESE GOONS KNOWING THE TRUTH.
I GOT AN IDEA.
WHO THE HECK?


SUDDENLY, ROMA MATERIALIZES, BRINGING WITH HER ONE FINAL GIFT FOR THE X-MEN.. THE SIEGE PERILOUS...
THIS DOORWAY SHALL PASS JUDGMENT UPON ALL WHO ENTER...

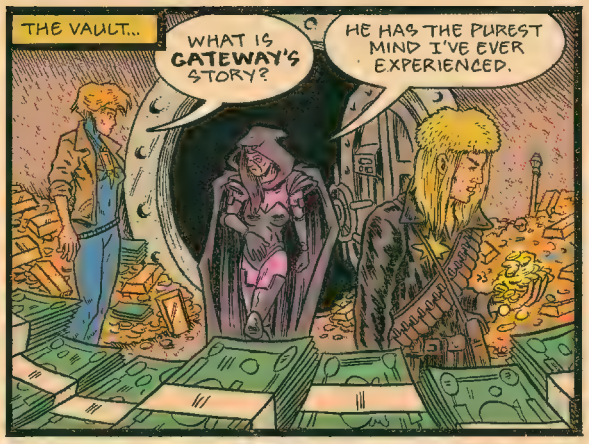
ONE'S LIFE WILL TAKE A NEW COURSE WHEN THEY MAKE THEIR WAY THROUGH THIS PASSAGE...

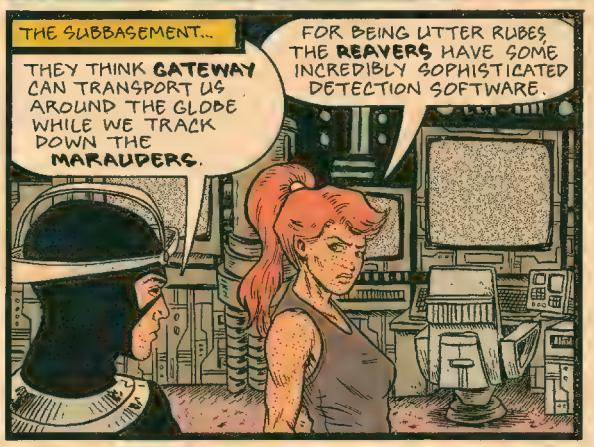
X-MEN, YOU CAN EITHER END THEIR LIVES IN THIS REALM COMPLETELY OR DECIDE TO OFFER THESE REAVERS A CHANCE FOR REDEMPTION.

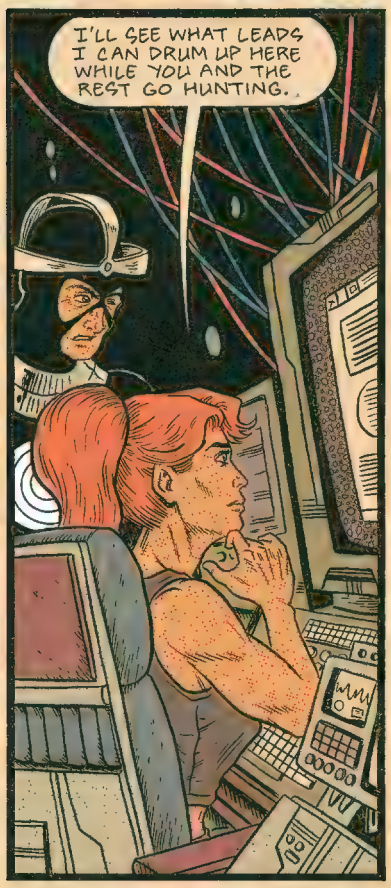
THE PRISONERS ARE PERMITTED TO MAKE THE CHOICE.
I DON' GIT 'IS MAGICAL MUMBO JUMBO, BUT WHATEVA...

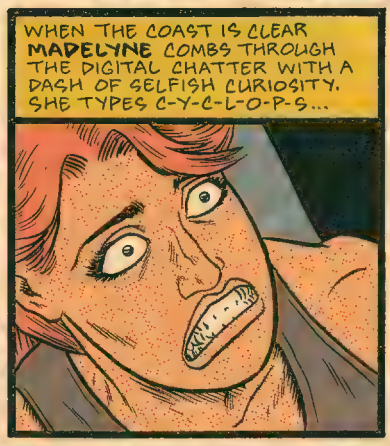

IF EVER YOU X-MEN WISH, KNOW THAT THE SIEGE PERILOUS IS YOURS TO PROVIDE YOU A FRESH START FULL OF NEW POSSIBILITIES.
KINDA SOUNDS LIKE THE MONKEY'S PAW...

REAVERS HQ...
WHAT A FREAKIN' STY!
YOU EXPECTED MORE FROM THESE GUYS, ROGUE?

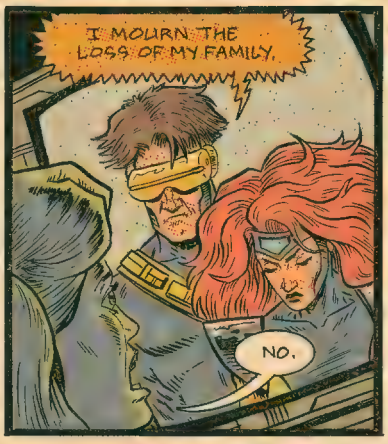

THE VAULT...
WHAT IS GATEWAY'S STORY?
HE HAS THE PUREST MIND I'VE EVER EXPERIENCED.

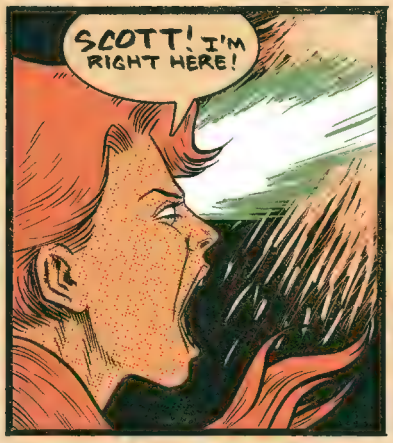

THE SUBBASEMENT...
THEY THINK GATEWAY CAN TRANSPORT US AROUND THE GLOBE WHILE WE TRACK DOWN THE MARAUDERS.
FOR BEING UTTER RUBES, THE REAVERS HAVE SOME INCREDIBLY SOPHISTICATED DETECTION SOFTWARE.


I'LL SEE WHAT LEADS I CAN DRUM UP HERE WHILE YOU AND THE REST GO HUNTING.


WHEN THE COAST IS CLEAR MADELYNE COMBS THROUGH THE DIGITAL CHATTER WITH A DASH OF SELFISH CURIOSITY. SHE TYPES C-Y-C-L-O-P-S...

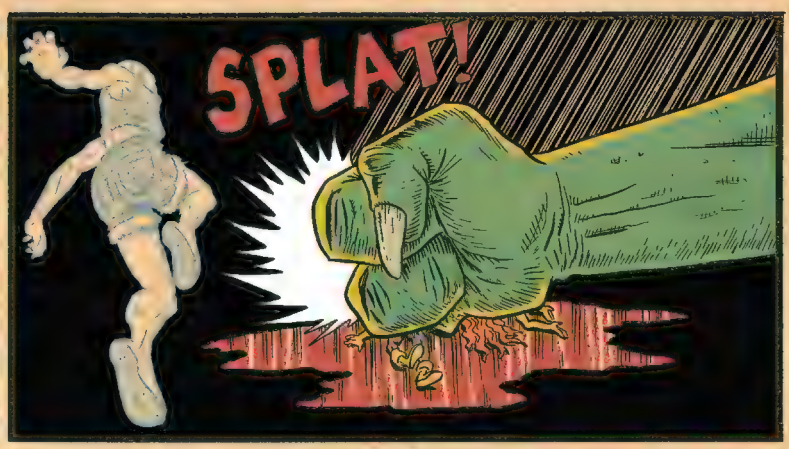
"WE SAW THE SAME NEWS FOOTAGE YOU SAW, GERALDO. WE MOURN THE LOSS OF THE X-MEN."

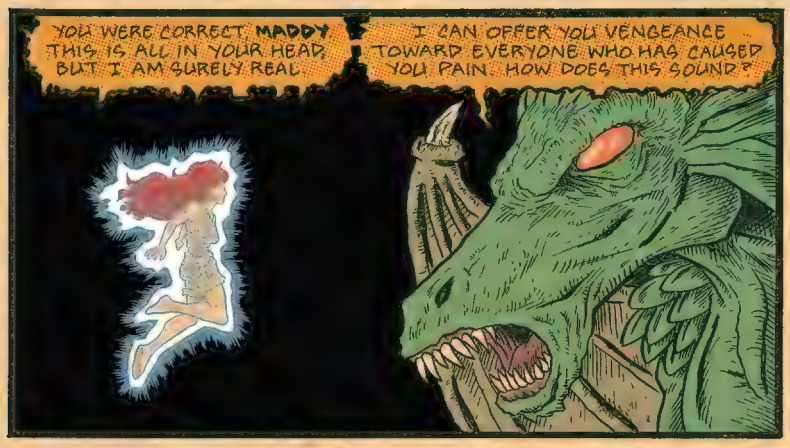

I MOURN THE LOSS OF MY FAMILY.
NO.


SCOTT! I'M RIGHT HERE!

GATEWAY COULDN'T HELP BUT HEAR THE ERUPTION WITHIN THE BOWELS OF REAVERS HEADQUARTERS AFTER HE PROJECTED THE X-MEN TO THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE PLANET.
YOU'RE VERY FAMILIAR.
IT'S ME, ANNIE, SILLY BIRD.
OKAY, SO I'M DREAMING, THEN.
A LOT OF TRUTH CAN BE REVEALED DURING SLUMBER.
HEY!
MY HEAD IS COLD.
QUIT IT!
I'LL TAKE YOUR EYEBALLS LAST SO THAT YOU CAN SEE MY POINT. HA HA!
THE EMPTINESS YOU'VE FELT YOUR WHOLE LIFE HAS SOME MERIT AFTER ALL.
PLEASE STOP.
YOU REALLY COULDN'T EXPECT SCOTT TO HAVE TRUE FEELINGS FOR A HOLLOW FACE MADE, DID YOU?
PLEASE.
HA HA! SHE THOUGHT HAVING A BABY WOULD STRENGTHEN OUR BOND! HA HA!
HA HA HAW!

I'M GOING TO BE SICK...
HA HAW HAW HA HEH HA HA HAW...


SPLAT!


YOU WERE CORRECT, MADDY. THIS IS ALL IN YOUR HEAD, BUT I AM SURELY REAL.
I CAN OFFER YOU VENGEANCE TOWARD EVERYONE WHO HAS CAUSED YOU PAIN. HOW DOES THIS SOUND?

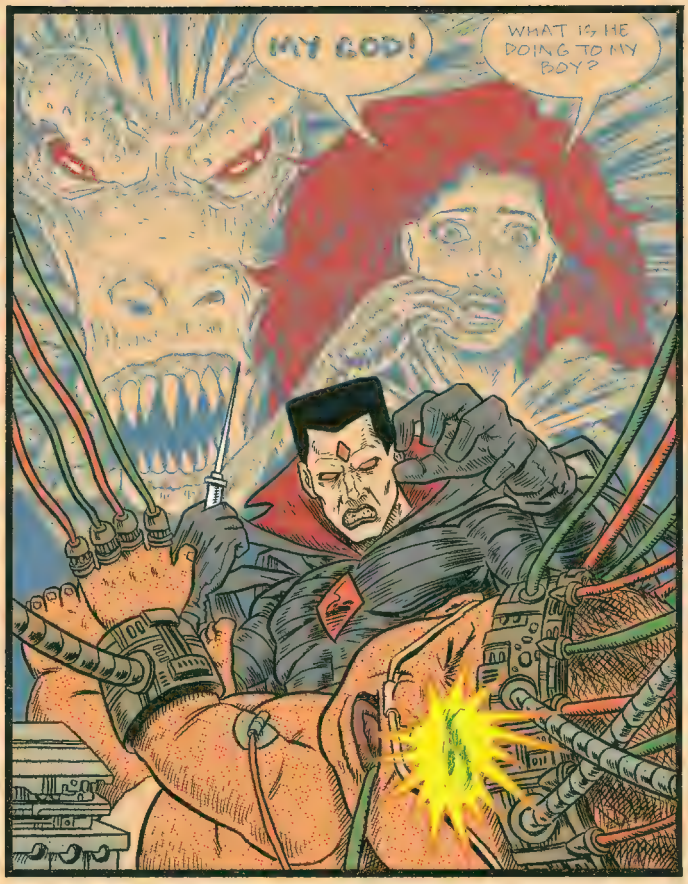
I JUST WANT MY BABY BACK, N'ASTIRH. N'ASTIRH? HOW DO I KNOW YOUR NAME?

YOU MAY HAVE BOTH. I AM EAGER TO PAIR YOU BACK UP WITH LITTLE NATHAN.

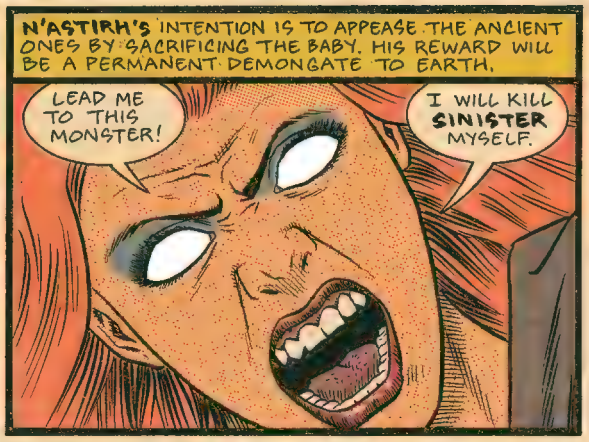
I...WOULD DO ANYTHING.

SNAP!
YOU LOOK GOOD IN BLACK, MY GOBLIN QUEEN.

I CAN SHOW YOU A VISION OF YOUR SON FROM THIS VERY MOMENT IF YOU THINK YOU'RE STRONG ENOUGH TO HANDLE IT.
DON'T TOY WITH ME.


MY GOD!
WHAT IS HE DOING TO MY BOY?

YOU AND YOUR MATE CREATED ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL MUTANTS ON EARTH. SINISTER IS BUSY WEAPONIZING THE LAD. VERY PAINFUL PROCESS, I CONFESS.


N'ASTIRH'S INTENTION IS TO APPEASE THE ANCIENT ONES BY SACRIFICING THE BABY. HIS REWARD WILL BE A PERMANENT DEMONGATE TO EARTH.
LEAD ME TO THIS MONSTER!
I WILL KILL SINISTER MYSELF.

AS YOU WISH, GOBLIN QUEEN.

WITHOUT WARNING...
WHAT GIVES, GATEWAY?
HE WOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT US BACK LIKE THIS WITHOUT GOOD REASON.
I SEE! THE COMMAND CENTER! MADELYNE WAS... IS HURT!
ON CONSTANT LOOP IN THE REAVERS WAR ROOM...
JEAN GREY IS ALIVE?!
HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?
WOLVERINE, YOU KNEW?
STAY OUTTA MY HEAD, 'LOCKE.
I THOUGHT I WAS NUTS, BUT I PICKED UP HER SCENT IN THE ALLEY WHEN WE FIRST TUSSLED WITH THE MARAUDERS.
NEITHER MADELYNE'S PSYCHIC SIGNATURE NOR SCENT IS DETECTABLE TO THE X-MEN.
GATEWAY, IF YOU KNOW WHERE MADDY WENT WE NEED TO GO HELP HER!

MR. SINISTER'S NEW HOME, THE DILAPIDATED RUINS OF THE XAVIER SCHOOL.

...IT'S QUITE SIMPLE, MADELYNE. YOU MUST DIE ONLY SO YOU DON'T LEAD A TRAIL BACK TO ME.

MY GOD! WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING?

MADELYNE PRYOR

DON'T WORRY. THIS OLD MACHINE OF MINE HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH YOUR BIRTH AND NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR DEATH.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

"MANY YEARS AGO, I BEGAN MY RESEARCH ON MUTANT DNA SCOTT SUMMERS WAS AN ASTONISHING SPECIMEN.

HELP ME!

"I WAS NERVOUS WHEN HE RAN AWAY FROM THE ORPHANAGE, BUT IT SURELY BECAME A BLESSING.

"SCOTT WAS SO HURT WHEN JEAN GREY LEFT THIS CAMPUS FOR METRO COLLEGE. I KNEW THEN AND THERE THAT I NEEDED HER DNA FOR MY ULTIMATE GOAL.

IS EVERYTHING OKAY, JEANNIE?

GO BACK TO SLEEP, TED.

"THIS IS WHERE YOU ENTERED THE PICTURE, MADELYNE. AT THE TIME, YOU WERE THE CULMINATION OF MY LIFE'S WORK... UNTIL NOW.

"IMPLANTING FALSE MEMORIES WAS THE EASY PART. I SIMPLY CHOSE WHAT I THOUGHT WOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH SCOTT'S DESIRES.

"I NEEDED JEAN GREY OUT OF THE PICTURE TO MAKE CYCLOPS AS VULNERABLE AS POSSIBLE. HER DEATH WAS AN UNEXPECTED BONUS.

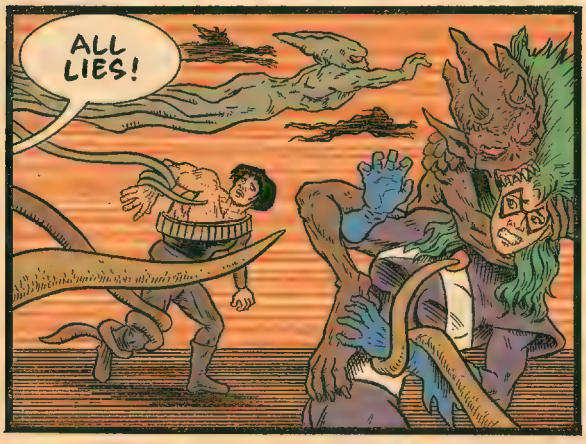
"THE ONLY SLIGHT CHALLENGE WAS GETTING THE BOTH OF YOU TO CROSS PATHS."

YOU WANT THE GIG OR WHAT, SLIM?

UM... UH... YES... YES. SORRY. DEJA VU...

YOU SERVED YOUR PURPOSE, MADDY. NOW YOU'RE OBSOLETE.

LIES!!

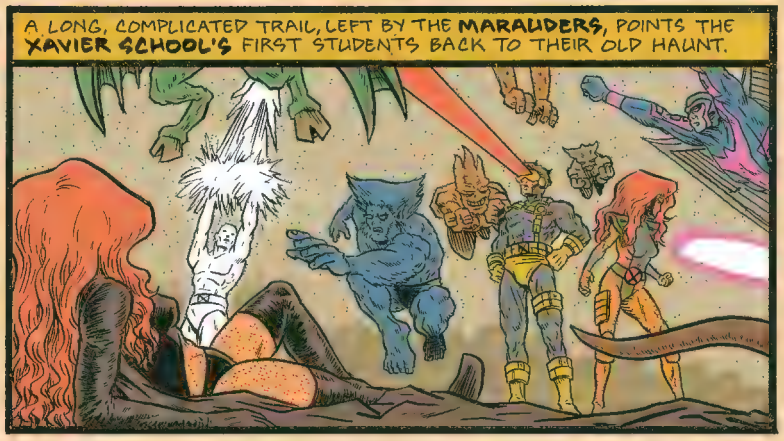

ALL LIES!

YOU'LL BE TORN TO SHREDS IF YOU DON'T GIVE ME BACK MY SON, SINISTER!

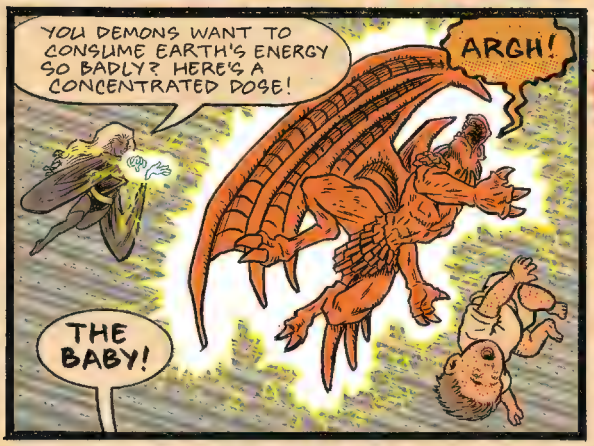
SUPPOSE I HAVE NO CHOICE.

GOOD GOLEM.
OUR BUSINESS IS COMPLETE, WENCH.

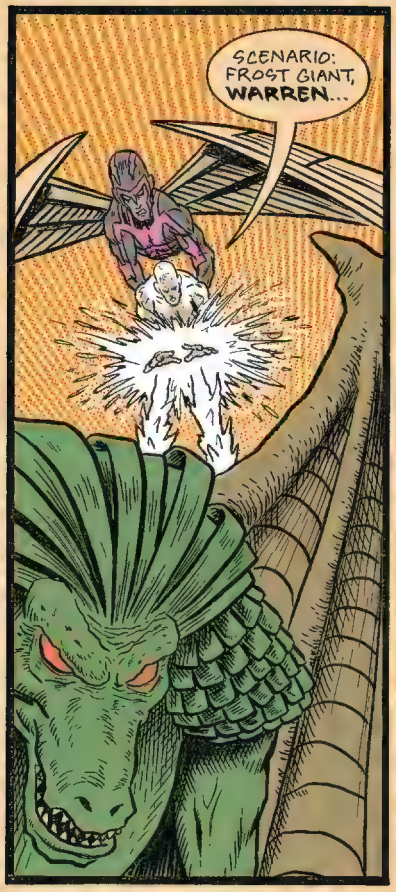
SUDDENLY...

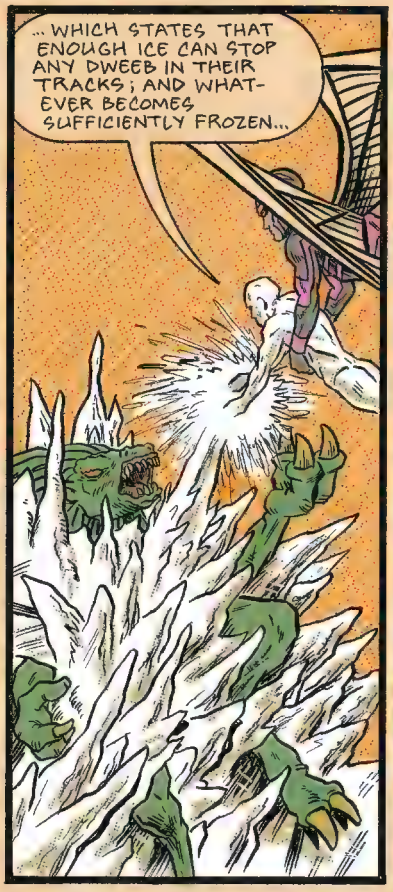

A LONG, COMPLICATED TRAIL, LEFT BY THE MARAUDERS, POINTS THE XAVIER SCHOOL'S FIRST STUDENTS BACK TO THEIR OLD HAUNT.

MY SON!
NATHAN!

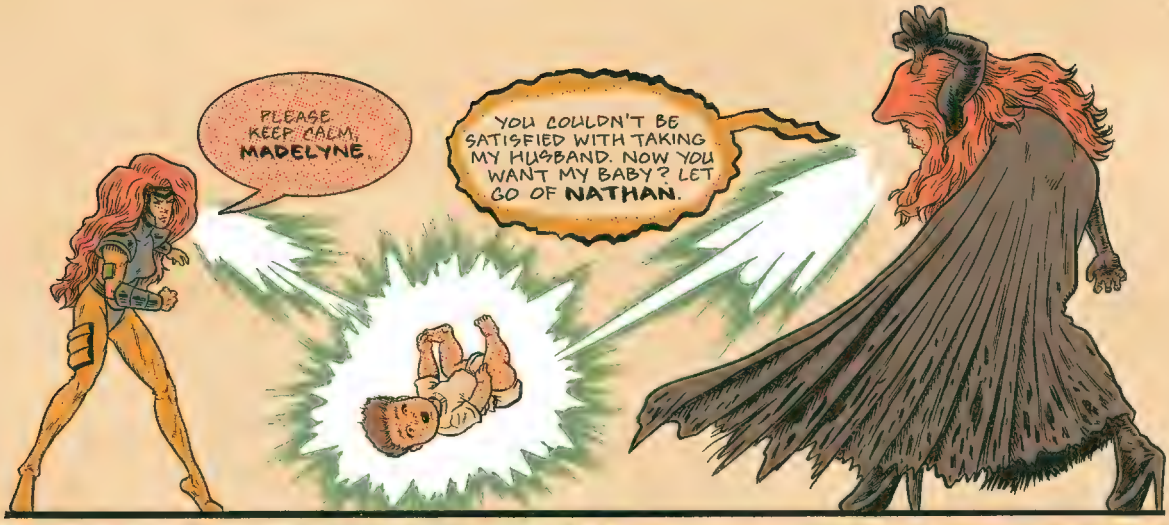

YOU DEMONS WANT TO CONSUME EARTH'S ENERGY SO BADLY? HERE'S A CONCENTRATED DOSE!
ARGH!
THE BABY!

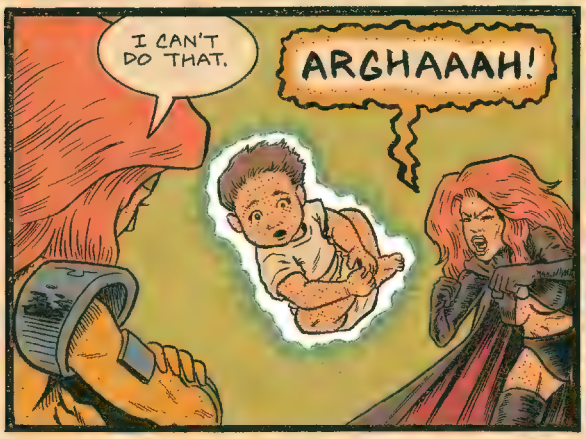
OH, NATHAN, YOU CAUSED YOUR MOTHER SO MUCH PAIN. GET YOUR TAIL OVER HERE.

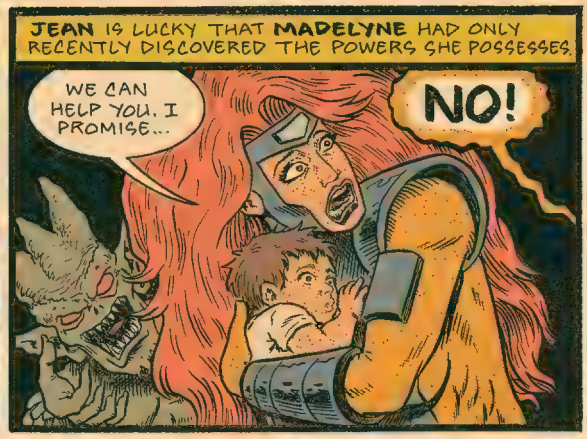

SCENARIO: FROST GIANT, WARREN...


... WHICH STATES THAT ENOUGH ICE CAN STOP ANY DWEEB IN THEIR TRACKS; AND WHATEVER BECOMES SUFFICIENTLY FROZEN...

... CAN SHATTER INTO OBLIVION IF MET WITH APPROPRIATE FORCE!


PLEASE KEEP CALM, MADELYNE.
YOU COULDN'T BE SATISFIED WITH TAKING MY HUSBAND. NOW YOU WANT MY BABY? LET GO OF NATHAN.


I CAN'T DO THAT.
ARGHAAAH!


JEAN IS LUCKY THAT MADELYNE HAD ONLY RECENTLY DISCOVERED THE POWERS SHE POSSESSES.
WE CAN HELP YOU. I PROMISE...
NO!

WHY COULDN'T YOU STAY DEAD, COW?!
MADELYNE TRIES TO CRIPPLE JEAN GREY, BUT THE DEFLECTION OF THE PSYCHIC BLAST COSTS THE CLONE DEARLY.
SCOTT!

WITH NO MORE LEADERSHIP, THE LAST OF THE GOBLINS RETREAT HOME, EXPECTING ROMA TO CAST SERIOUS PUNISHMENT UPON THEM.

I'VE NOT HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING YOUNG NATHAN. HE HAS A TWINKLE IN HIS EYE, SCOTT.
EXCUSE ME, EVERYONE...
...IT SEEMS TRUE THAT THE DEMON INVASION IS AT AN END...
...AND, EXCEPT FOR POLARIS, THE MARAUDERS HAVE ALL MET THEIR DEMISE, BUT...
...THIS DEVIL IS THE ROOT OF ALL THE TORMENT WE'VE RECENTLY EXPERIENCED. HIS MIND IS EVIL TO THE CORE AND IN GOOD CONSCIENCE I HESITATE TO LOOSEN MY GRIP ON HIM. PLEASE ADVISE.
YOU'RE ALL FAMILIAR WITH THE Z'NOX SCENARIO?
WHEN THE ORIGINAL X-MEN PERFORMED THIS MANEUVER IT WAS MERELY A LEAP OF FAITH.
THEY TRUSTED CHARLES XAVIER'S DIRECTION, BUT THERE WAS SKEPTICISM ABOUT USING CONCENTRATED MIND-POWER TO STAVE OFF AN ALIEN INVASION. THE TACTIC WAS 100% SUCCESSFUL.
MR. SINISTER WAS OBSERVING SCOTT THEN, AS WELL. HE KNOWS WHAT IS IN STORE.

AFTER THE JURY OF THIRTEEN RENDER THEIR VERDICT AND CARRY OUT THEIR SENTENCE...

MY GOD. I LET **MADELYNE** DOWN SO MANY TIMES...

ALL ROADS WOULD HAVE LED TO THIS MOMENT, **SCOTT**, NO MATTER WHICH COURSE YOU'D HAVE TAKEN.

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN YOU GUYS WERE TOO SLICK TO DIE AT **FREEDOM TOWER**.

SPEAKING OF WHICH...

HOW DID YOU COME BACK, **JEAN**? WHERE WERE YOU? WHAT HAPPENED?

WE'RE PLAYING 20 QUESTIONS? I HAVE ONE. WHERE THE HECK IS **PROFESSOR X**? WE COULD HAVE USED HIS HELP MORE THAN EVER.

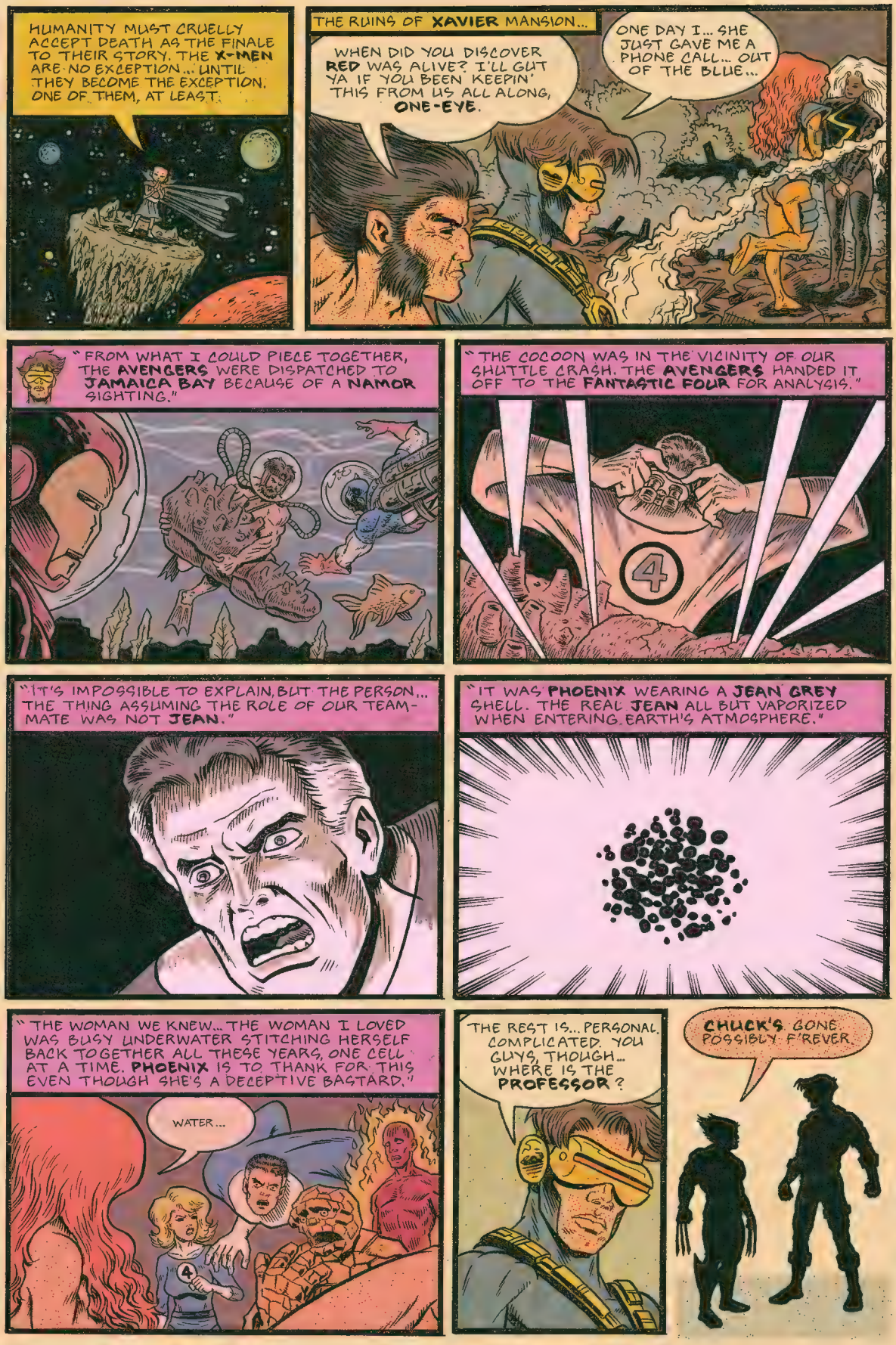
THE STUDENTS OF **XAVIER** WILL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO GAIN ALL THE ANSWERS THEY SEEK JUST BEFORE THEIR UNMITIGATED ERADICATION.

EPISODE 6

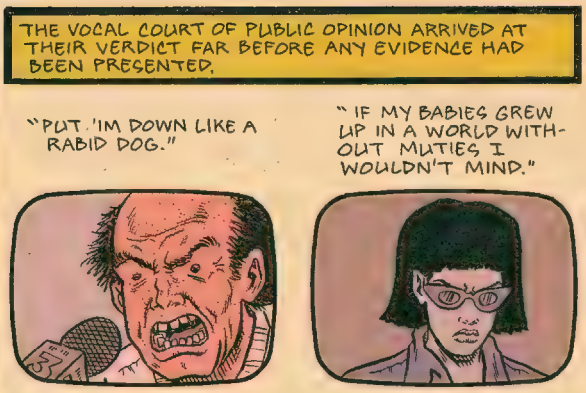
MARVEL

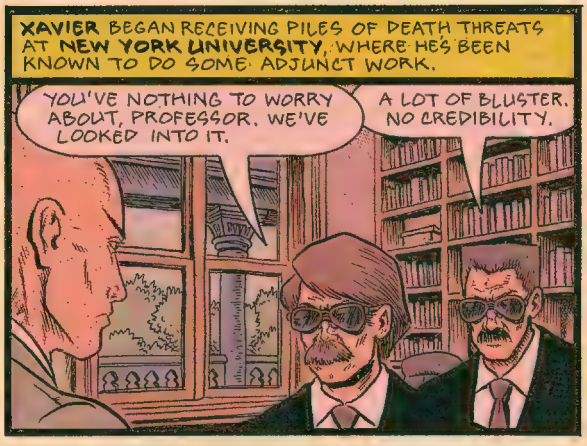
MARVEL
COMICS

MARVEL


HUMANITY MUST CRUELLY ACCEPT DEATH AS THE FINALE TO THEIR STORY. THE X-MEN ARE NO EXCEPTION... UNTIL THEY BECOME THE EXCEPTION. ONE OF THEM, AT LEAST.
THE RUINS OF XAVIER MANSION...
WHEN DID YOU DISCOVER RED WAS ALIVE? I'LL GUT YA IF YOU BEEN KEEPIN' THIS FROM US ALL ALONG, ONE-EYE.
ONE DAY I... SHE JUST GAVE ME A PHONE CALL... OUT OF THE BLUE...
"FROM WHAT I COULD PIECE TOGETHER, THE AVENGERS WERE DISPATCHED TO JAMAICA BAY BECAUSE OF A NAMOR SIGHTING."
"THE COCOON WAS IN THE VICINITY OF OUR SHUTTLE CRASH. THE AVENGERS HANDED IT OFF TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR FOR ANALYSIS."
"IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPLAIN, BUT THE PERSON... THE THING ASSUMING THE ROLE OF OUR TEAM-MATE WAS NOT JEAN."
"IT WAS PHOENIX WEARING A JEAN GREY SHELL. THE REAL JEAN ALL BUT VAPORIZED WHEN ENTERING EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE."
"THE WOMAN WE KNEW... THE WOMAN I LOVED WAS BUSY UNDERWATER STITCHING HERSELF BACK TOGETHER ALL THESE YEARS, ONE CELL AT A TIME. PHOENIX IS TO THANK FOR THIS EVEN THOUGH SHE'S A DECEPTIVE BASTARD."
WATER...
THE REST IS... PERSONAL. COMPLICATED. YOU GUYS, THOUGH... WHERE IS THE PROFESSOR?
CHUCK'S GONE. POSSIBLY F'REVER.

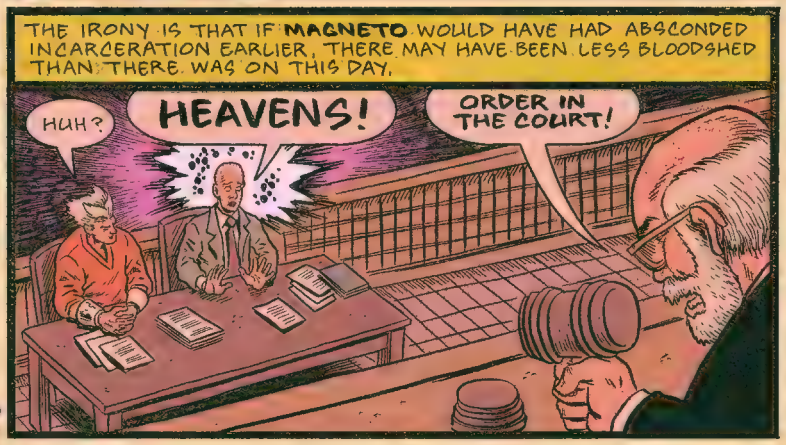
CHARLES XAVIER'S FATE WAS CEMENTED THE MOMENT HE PLEDGED TO DEFEND MAGNETO IN COURT FOR HIS MANY ACTS OF TERRORISM.
CONGRATULATIONS ON THE USE OF YOUR LEGS, CHARLES. IT SUITS YOU.

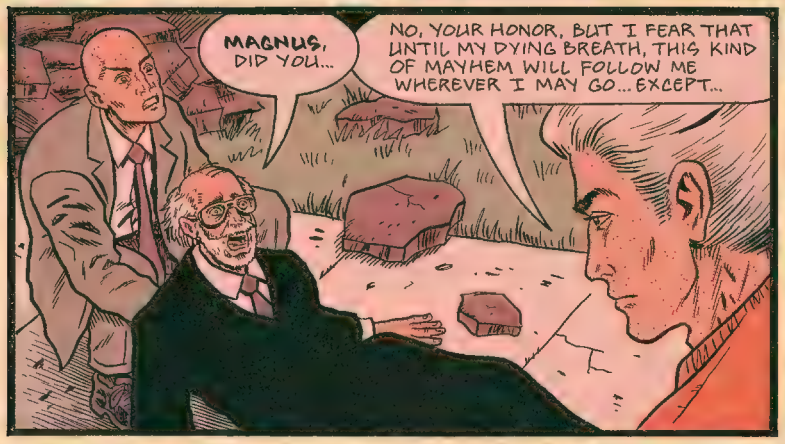

THE VOCAL COURT OF PUBLIC OPINION ARRIVED AT THEIR VERDICT FAR BEFORE ANY EVIDENCE HAD BEEN PRESENTED.
"PUT 'IM DOWN LIKE A RABID DOG."
"IF MY BABIES GREW UP IN A WORLD WITHOUT MUTIES I WOULDN'T MIND."

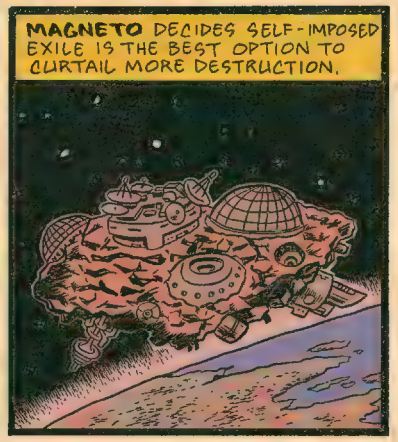

XAVIER BEGAN RECEIVING PILES OF DEATH THREATS AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, WHERE HE'S BEEN KNOWN TO DO SOME ADJUNCT WORK.
YOU'VE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, PROFESSOR. WE'VE LOOKED INTO IT.
A LOT OF BLUSTER. NO CREDIBILITY.

SMART PEOPLE CONCOCTED SMART WAYS TO HANDLE THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM WHILE IN FEDERAL CUSTODY, BUT THE TRUTH IS HE COULD ALWAYS DETECT FERROUS METALS. HE COULD HAVE ESCAPED WHENEVER HE WISHED, BUT HE DIDN'T.
I'M READY FOR MY DAY IN COURT.
PLASTIC RESTRAINTS

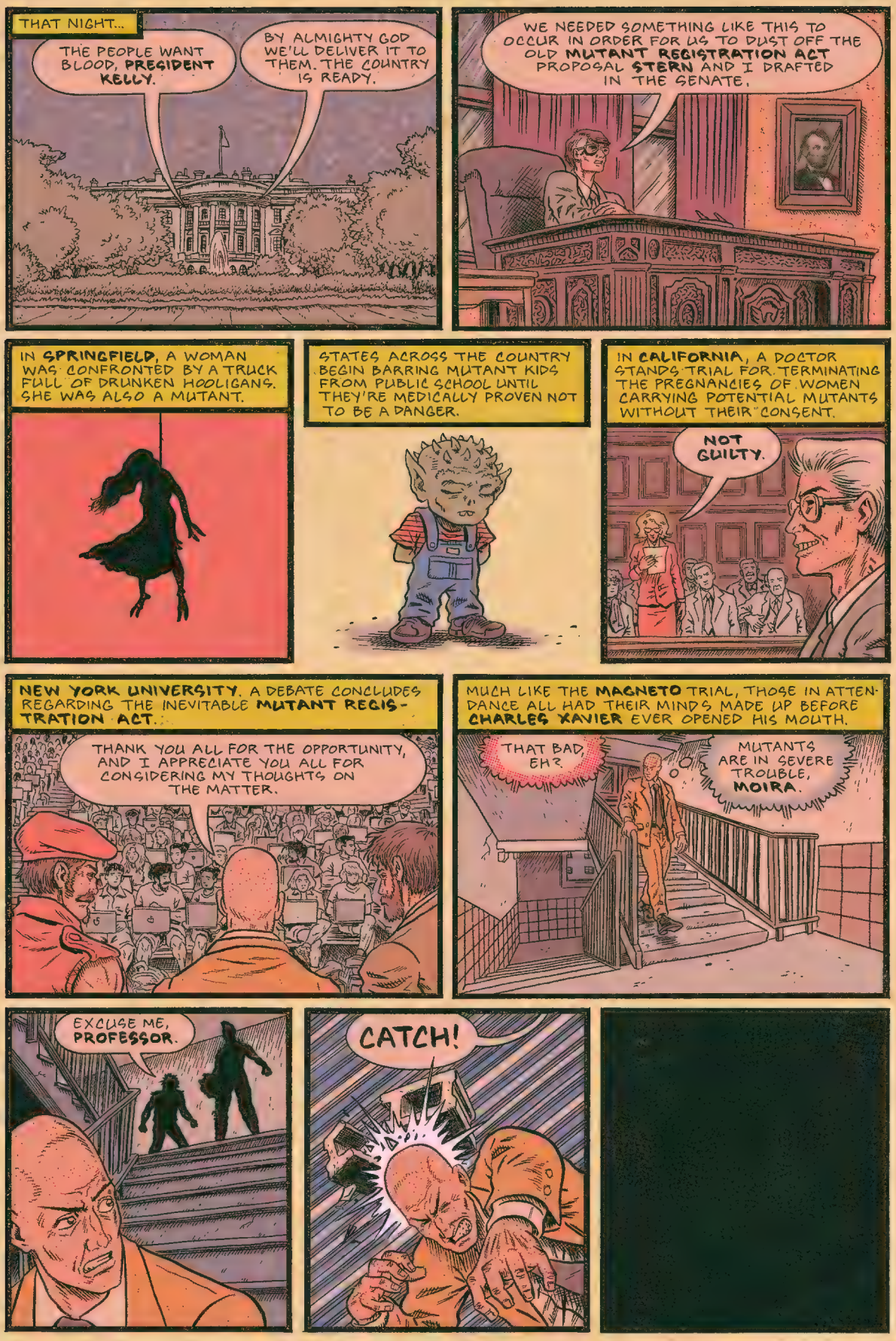
JUST BEFORE THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS...
YOU'RE WHITE AS A SHEET, CHARLES.
YOU DIDN'T FORGET THAT I CAN READ EVERYBODY'S THOUGHTS, DID YOU?


THE IRONY IS THAT IF MAGNETO WOULD HAVE HAD ABSCONDED INCARCERATION EARLIER, THERE MAY HAVE BEEN LESS BLOODSHED THAN THERE WAS ON THIS DAY.
HUH?
HEAVENS!
ORDER IN THE COURT!

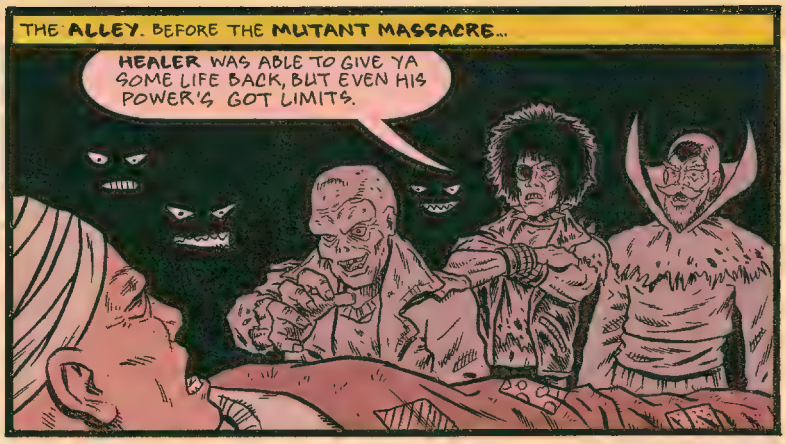


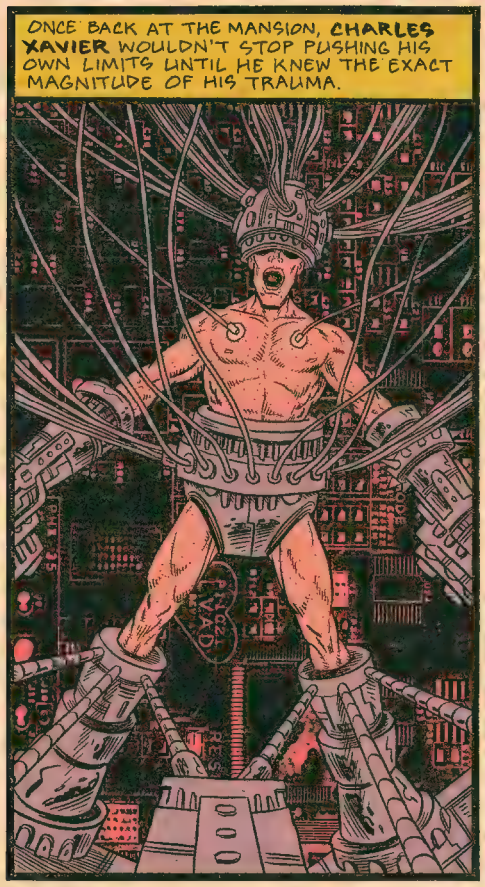


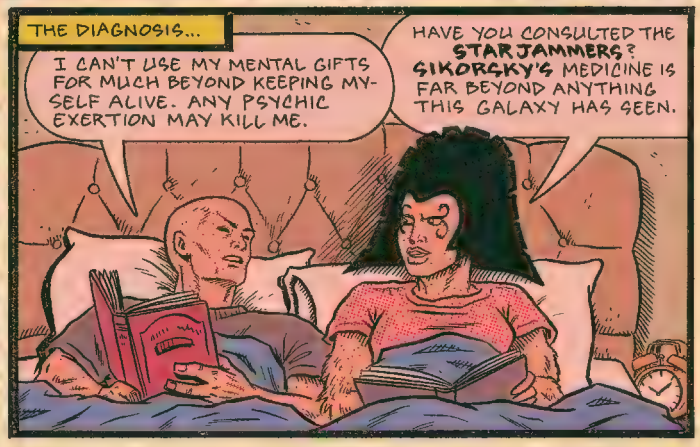
THE **UNITED STATES** GOVERNMENT DRAWS ITS OWN CONCLUSIONS SURROUNDING THE COURTHOUSE MASSACRE.

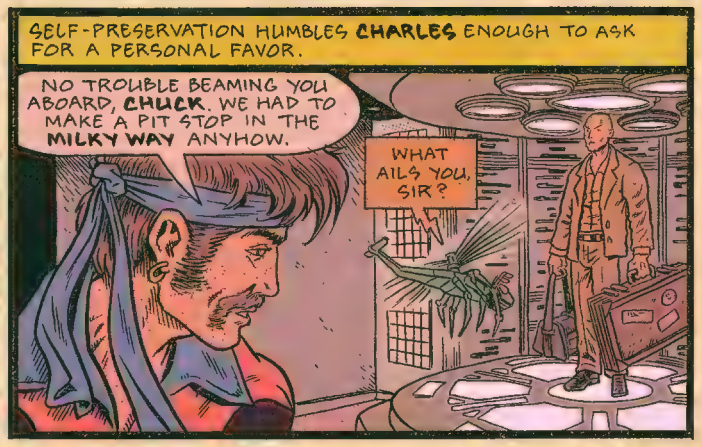

THAT NIGHT...
THE PEOPLE WANT BLOOD, PRESIDENT KELLY.
BY ALMIGHTY GOD WE'LL DELIVER IT TO THEM. THE COUNTRY IS READY.
WE NEEDED SOMETHING LIKE THIS TO OCCUR IN ORDER FOR US TO DUST OFF THE OLD MUTANT REGISTRATION ACT PROPOSAL STERN AND I DRAFTED IN THE SENATE.
IN SPRINGFIELD, A WOMAN WAS CONFRONTED BY A TRUCK FULL OF DRUNKEN HOOLIGANS. SHE WAS ALSO A MUTANT.
STATES ACROSS THE COUNTRY BEGIN BARRING MUTANT KIDS FROM PUBLIC SCHOOL UNTIL THEY'RE MEDICALLY PROVEN NOT TO BE A DANGER.
IN CALIFORNIA, A DOCTOR STANDS TRIAL FOR TERMINATING THE PREGNANCIES OF WOMEN CARRYING POTENTIAL MUTANTS WITHOUT THEIR CONSENT.
NOT GUILTY.
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY. A DEBATE CONCLUDES REGARDING THE INEVITABLE MUTANT REGISTRATION ACT.
THANK YOU ALL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY, AND I APPRECIATE YOU ALL FOR CONSIDERING MY THOUGHTS ON THE MATTER.
MUCH LIKE THE MAGNETO TRIAL, THOSE IN ATTENDANCE ALL HAD THEIR MINDS MADE UP BEFORE CHARLES XAVIER EVER OPENED HIS MOUTH.
THAT BAD, EH?
MUTANTS ARE IN SEVERE TROUBLE, MOIRA.
EXCUSE ME, PROFESSOR.
CATCH!

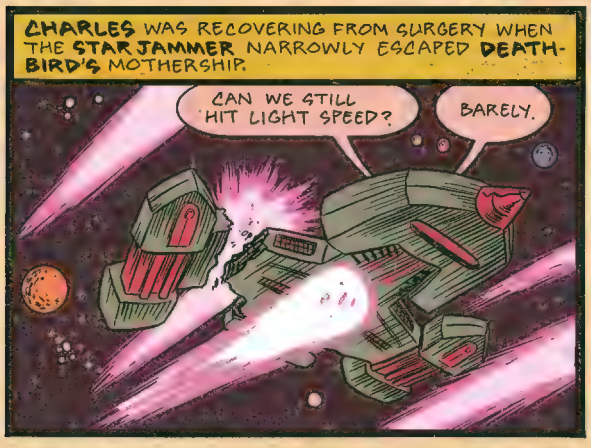
HE'S WOKE!

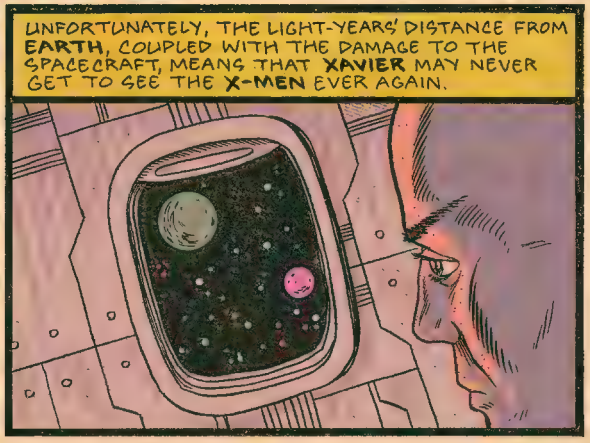

THE ALLEY. BEFORE THE MUTANT MASSACRE...
HEALER WAS ABLE TO GIVE YA SOME LIFE BACK, BUT EVEN HIS POWER'S GOT LIMITS.


ONCE BACK AT THE MANSION, CHARLES XAVIER WOULDN'T STOP PUSHING HIS OWN LIMITS UNTIL HE KNEW THE EXACT MAGNITUDE OF HIS TRAUMA.


THE DIAGNOSIS...
I CAN'T USE MY MENTAL GIFTS FOR MUCH BEYOND KEEPING MYSELF ALIVE. ANY PSYCHIC EXERTION MAY KILL ME.
HAVE YOU CONSULTED THE STARJAMMERS? SIKORSKY'S MEDICINE IS FAR BEYOND ANYTHING THIS GALAXY HAS SEEN.

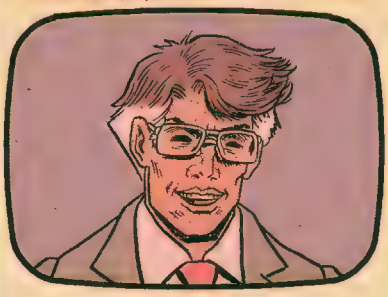

SELF-PRESERVATION HUMBLES CHARLES ENOUGH TO ASK FOR A PERSONAL FAVOR.
NO TROUBLE BEAMING YOU ABOARD, CHUCK. WE HAD TO MAKE A PIT STOP IN THE MILKY WAY ANYHOW.
WHAT AILS YOU, SIR?


CHARLES WAS RECOVERING FROM SURGERY WHEN THE STARJAMMER NARROWLY ESCAPED DEATH-BIRD'S MOTHERSHIP.
CAN WE STILL HIT LIGHT SPEED?
BARELY.

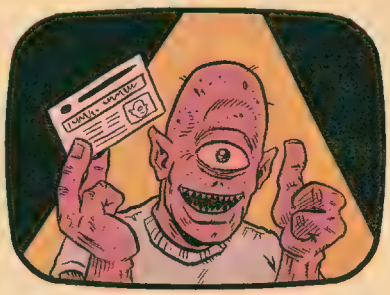

UNFORTUNATELY, THE LIGHT-YEARS' DISTANCE FROM EARTH, COUPLED WITH THE DAMAGE TO THE SPACECRAFT, MEANS THAT XAVIER MAY NEVER GET TO SEE THE X-MEN EVER AGAIN.

UNLESS YOU AN' **JEANNIE** HAVE BEEN SUCKIN' FACE THE WHOLE TIME SHE'S BEEN BACK, YOU SURELY KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED IN THE WAKE OF LOSIN' **CHARLIE** AS THE LOUDEST ADVOCATE FOR MUTANTKIND...

"MY FELLOW AMERICANS! YOU'VE BEEN LOUD AND CLEAR! FOR A CHANGE, YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS STOPPED BICKERING LONG ENOUGH TO LISTEN! THE **MUTANT REGISTRATION ACT** HAS PASSED."



"MUTANTS HAVE 30 DAYS TO SIGN UP AT THEIR NEAREST FEDERAL BUILDING BEFORE THE IMPOSITION OF PENALTIES."

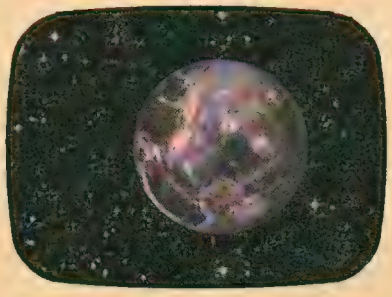


"CHILDREN SHALL BE TESTED FOR DORMANT MUTATION UPON THEIR NEXT VISIT TO THE DOCTOR."

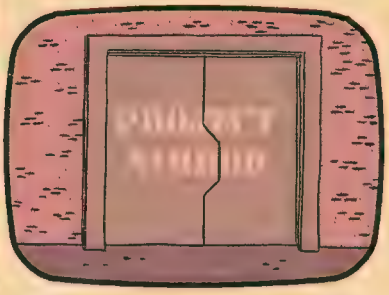
"ANY CITIZEN USING MUTANT HANDICAPS WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION SHALL FACE CERTAIN JAILTIME."

"STERILIZATION AND CAPITAL PUNISHMENT MAY BE ENFORCED UPON VIOLENT OFFENDERS."

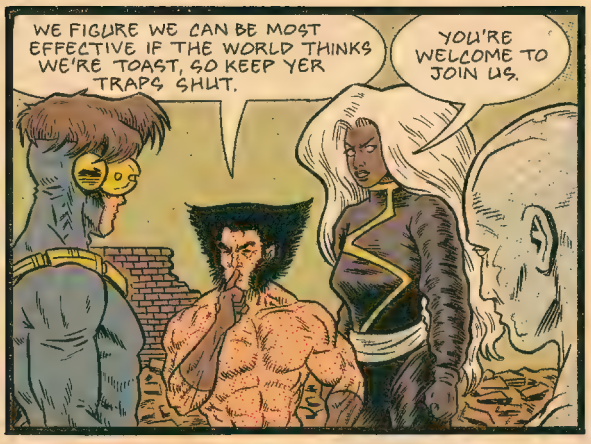
"OUR SAFER **AMERICA** IS INSPIRING COUNTRIES ACROSS THE GLOBE TO FOLLOW OUR LEAD. A WORLDWIDE NETWORK IS IN FORMATION."



MUTANT ACTIVISTS ARE INSTRUCTED TO RESPECT AND OCCUPY DEDICATED PROTEST ZONES IN THEIR CITY. NO OTHER DEMONSTRATIONS SHALL BE PERMITTED."

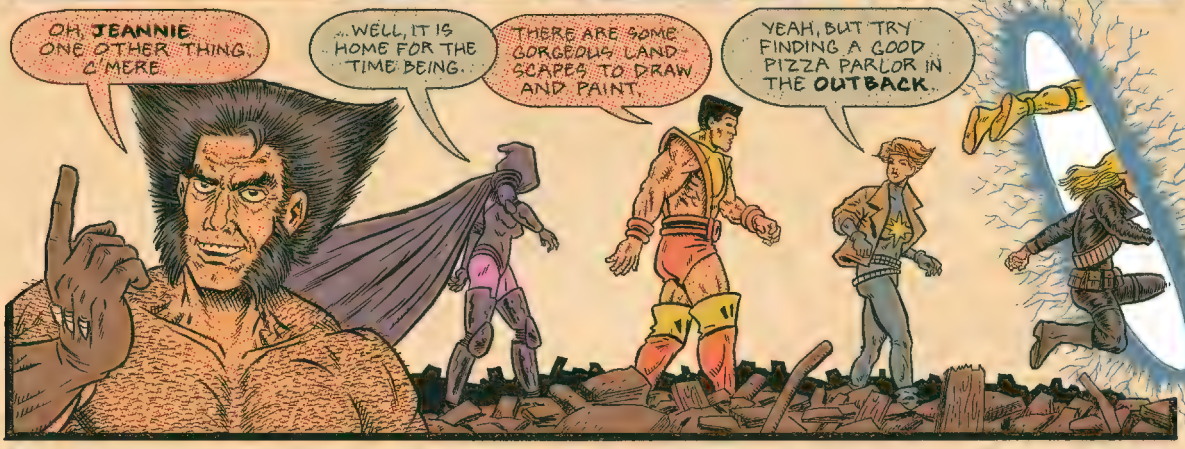


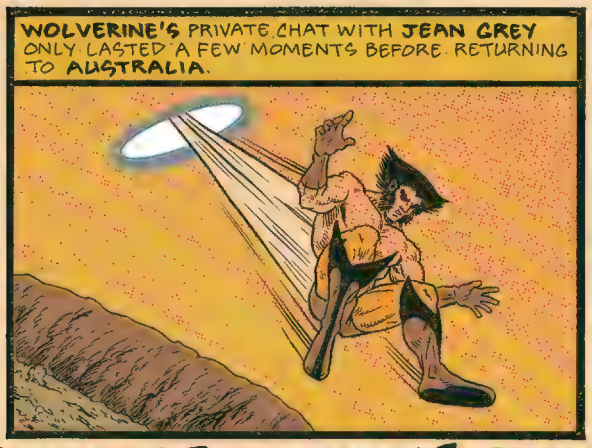
"YOU, THE PEOPLE, HAVE GIVEN US AUTHORITY TO ACT WITH FORCE ON A MAJOR SCALE IF RIOTING OR VIOLENCE SHOULD OCCUR DURING SUCH ASSEMBLIES."

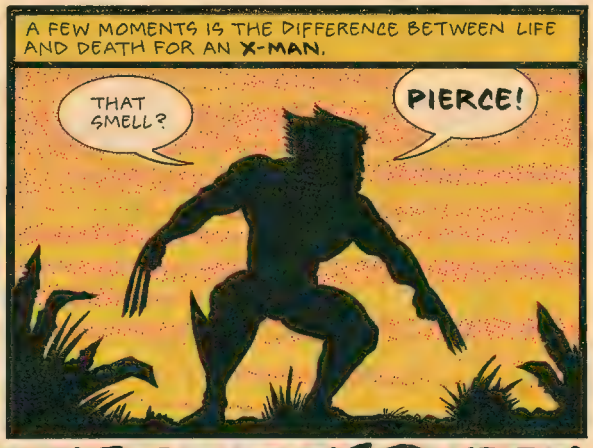

WE FIGURE WE CAN BE MOST EFFECTIVE IF THE WORLD THINKS WE'RE TOAST, SO KEEP YER TRAPS SHUT.
YOU'RE WELCOME TO JOIN US.

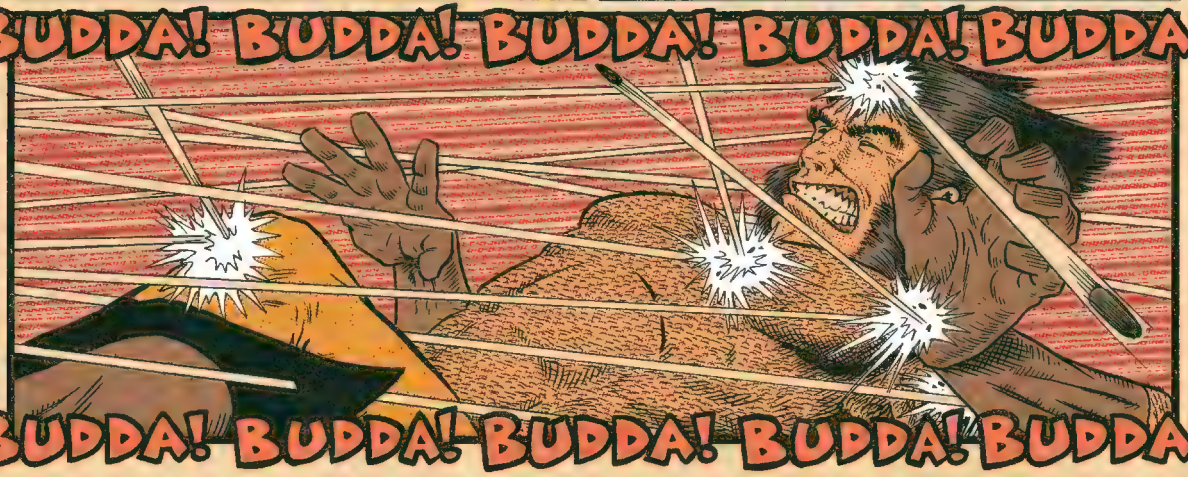
OUR APPROACH HAS ALWAYS BEEN ON THE FRONTLINES. THANKS FOR THE OFFER, THOUGH.

I'LL CALL GATEWAY TO BRING US HOME.
"HOME," HA!


OH, JEANNIE. ONE OTHER THING. C'MERE.
...WELL, IT IS HOME FOR THE TIME BEING.
THERE ARE SOME GORGEOUS LANDSCAPES TO DRAW AND PAINT.
YEAH, BUT TRY FINDING A GOOD PIZZA PARLOR IN THE OUTBACK.


WOLVERINE'S PRIVATE CHAT WITH JEAN GREY ONLY LASTED A FEW MOMENTS BEFORE RETURNING TO AUSTRALIA.


A FEW MOMENTS IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH FOR AN X-MAN.
THAT SMELL?
PIERCE!


BUDDA! BUDDA! BUDDA! BUDDA! BUDDA!
BUDDA! BUDDA! BUDDA! BUDDA! BUDDA!

THE MORE SEVERE THE DAMAGE **WOLVERINE** SUSTAINS, THE LONGER IT TAKES FOR HIS MUTANT HEALING FACTOR TO MEND HIS BODY. ALMOST ONE WEEK LATER...

'E'S COMIN' TO, BOSS.

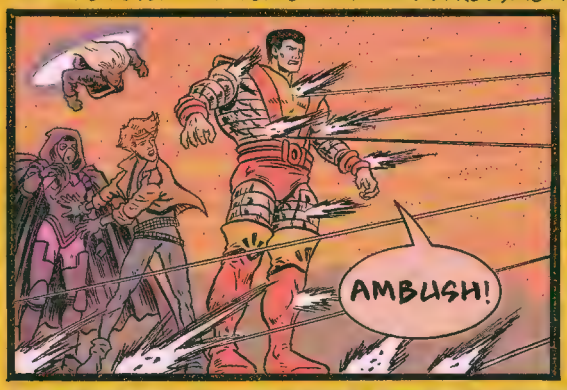
WAKEY! WAKEY! HAW HAW!

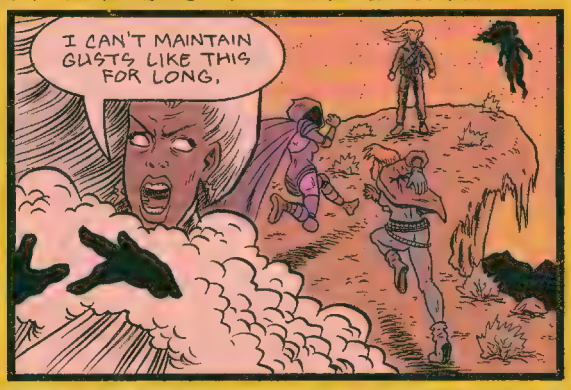
TOLDJA!

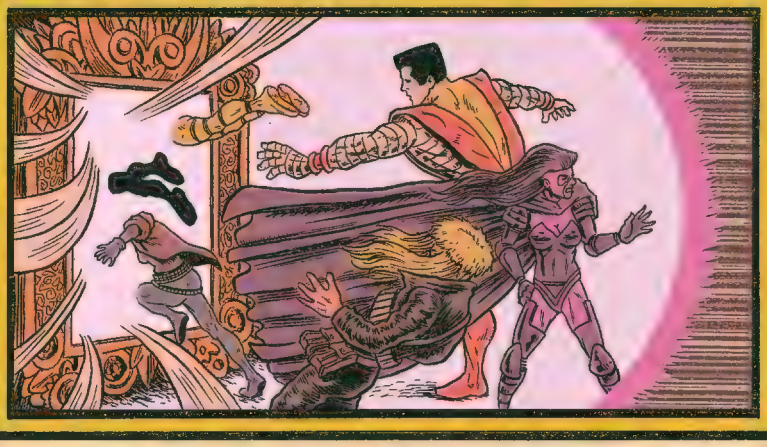
DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME RIGHT NOW, **WOLVERINE**?

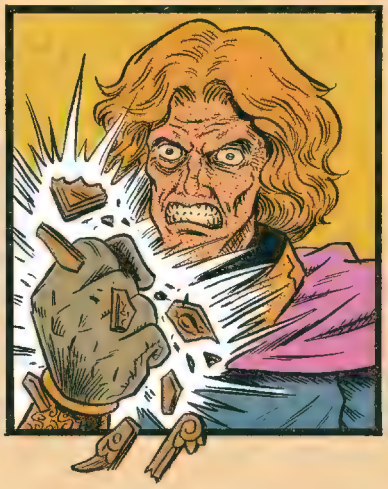
I WANT YOU TO HAVE YOUR WITS ABOUT YOU BEFORE WE TEAR YOU APART ALL OVER AGAIN.

GAZING UPON THE **SIEGE PERILOUS** TRIGGERS A PSYCHIC VISION THAT **PSYLOCKE** UPLOADED INTO **LOGAN'S** MIND. HE DESERVED AN EXPLANATION ADDRESSING WHY THE **X-MEN** CHOSE THE NUCLEAR OPTION.





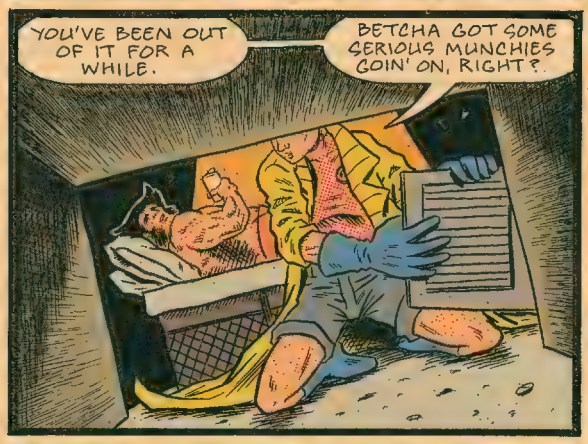




THE WEATHER THIS NIGHT BETRAYS FORECASTERS ACROSS THE GLOBE...
HEY, KID. GOT ANYTHING TO DRINK?
LEND A FELLA A HAND...

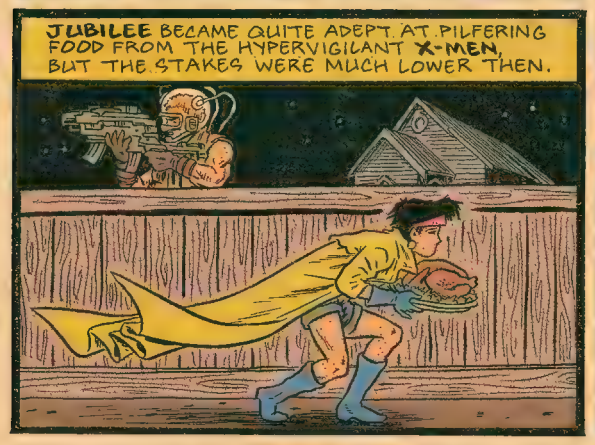
DAYS LATER...
GOOD MORNIN'! I WAS CLOSE TO HURLING THINKIN' I HAD A DEAD DUDE IN MY HIDEY-HOLE. I'M JUBILEE.
YER... SCENT IS... FAMILIAR TO ME...

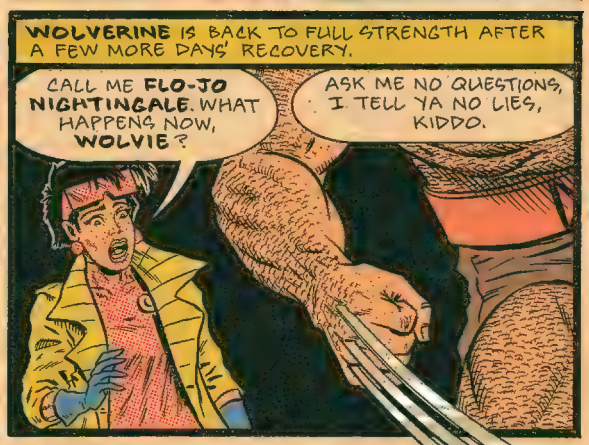
"YEAH, WELL, I FOLLOWED YOU GOOBERS HERE, LIKE, A MONTH AGO."
MALL OF AMERICA...
OUR SHOPPING IS COMPLETE, GATEWAY. BRING US HOME.
UM... HI THERE.

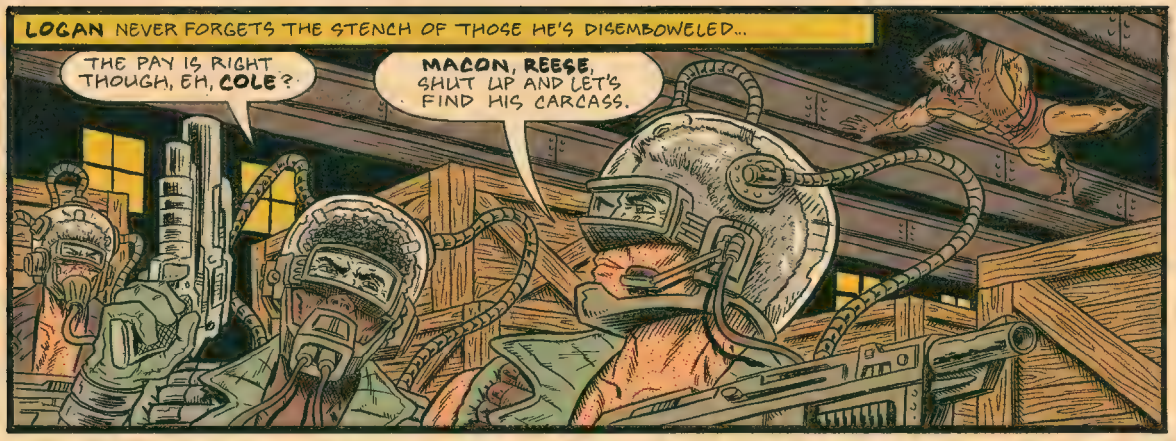

YOU'VE BEEN OUT OF IT FOR A WHILE.
BETCHA GOT SOME SERIOUS MUNCHIES GOIN' ON, RIGHT?

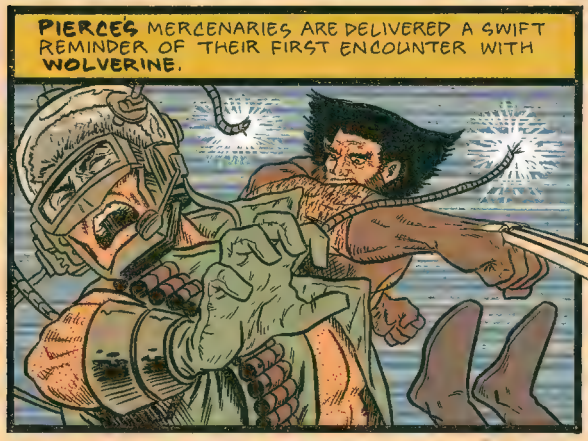
STARVING. THEY MUST BE LOOKIN' FOR MY BUTT, THOUGH. IT AIN'T SAFE OUT THERE.

STUFF IT, GIMPY JONES. THEY TRY ANY GOOFY CRAP AN' I'LL HAVE SOMETHIN' FOR 'EM.

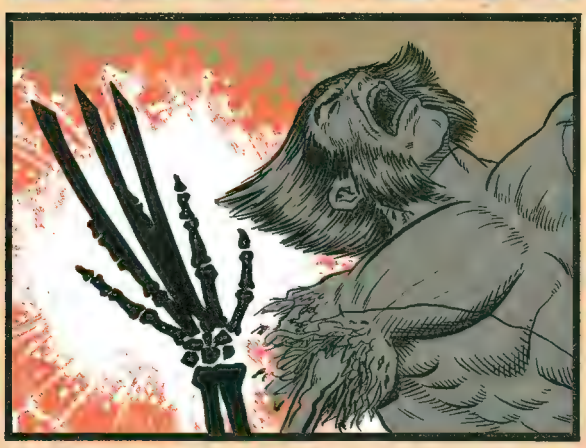

JUBILEE BECAME QUITE ADEPT AT PILFERING FOOD FROM THE HYPERVIGILANT X-MEN, BUT THE STAKES WERE MUCH LOWER THEN.

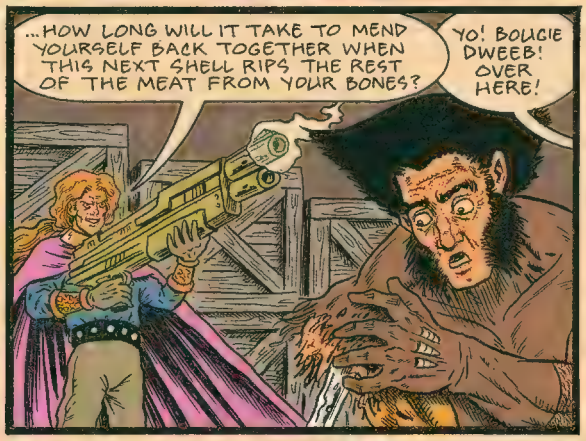

WOLVERINE IS BACK TO FULL STRENGTH AFTER A FEW MORE DAYS' RECOVERY.
CALL ME FLO-JO NIGHTINGALE. WHAT HAPPENS NOW, WOLVIE?
ASK ME NO QUESTIONS, I TELL YA NO LIES, KIDDO.

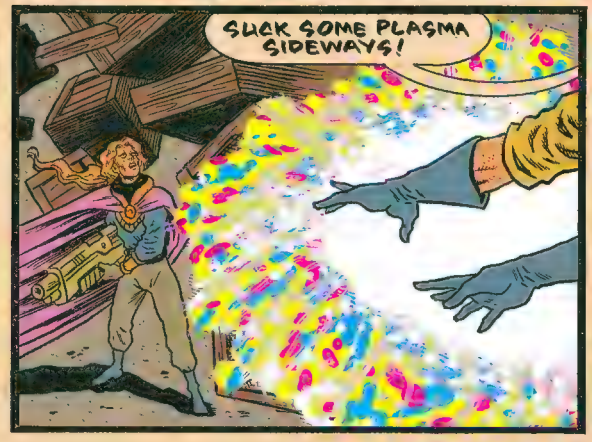

LOGAN NEVER FORGETS THE STENCH OF THOSE HE'S DISEMBOWELED...
THE PAY IS RIGHT THOUGH, EH, COLE?
MACON, REESE, SHUT UP AND LET'S FIND HIS CARCASS.

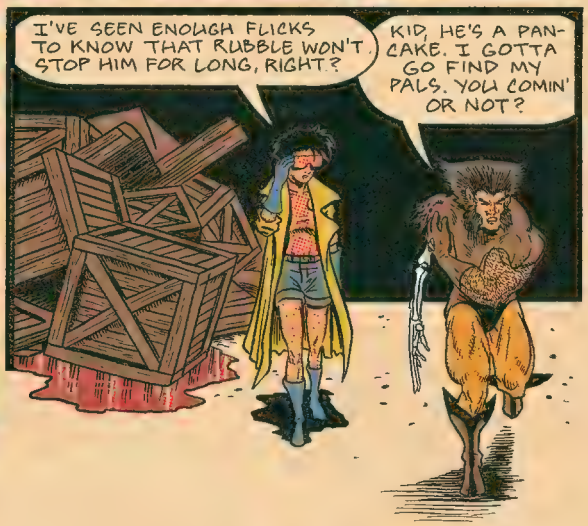

PIERCE'S MERCENARIES ARE DELIVERED A SWIFT REMINDER OF THEIR FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH WOLVERINE.

CRIKEY!



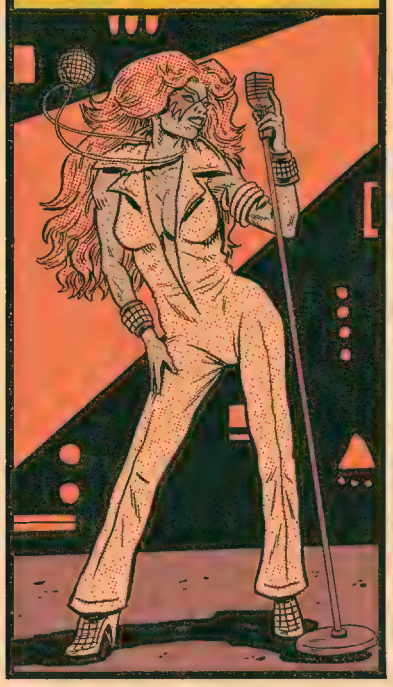

...HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO MEND YOURSELF BACK TOGETHER WHEN THIS NEXT SHELL RIPS THE REST OF THE MEAT FROM YOUR BONES?
YO! BOUCIE DWEEB! OVER HERE!


SUCK SOME PLASMA SIDEWAYS!


I'VE SEEN ENOUGH FLICKS TO KNOW THAT RUBBLE WON'T STOP HIM FOR LONG, RIGHT?
KID, HE'S A PANCAKE. I GOTTA GO FIND MY PALS. YOU COMIN' OR NOT?

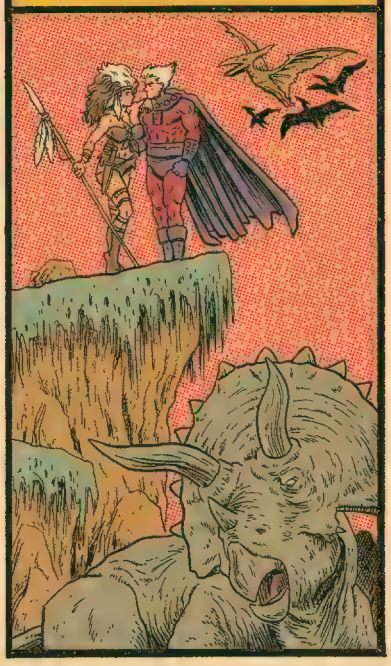
LOGAN DOESN'T TELL THE CHILD ABOUT THE VERY REAL POSSIBILITY THAT THE **SIEGE PERILOUS** MAY HAVE PROJECTED THE **X-MEN** TO DIMENSIONS UNREACHABLE BY EARTH'S CURRENT TECHNOLOGY. HE WOULD BE PARTIALLY CORRECT IN MAKING THIS ASSUMPTION.

ALISON BLAIRE/DAZZLER WAS CAST INTO A UNIVERSE WHERE SHE NEVER LOST HER FAME AS A MUSICIAN AND ACTRESS.



PETER RASPUTIN/COLOSSUS ENTERED A WORLD WHERE MUTANTS DON'T EXIST, BUT HE DID GET TO RETAIN HIS CREATIVITY.

ROGUE IS IN BLISS. A NATIVE-BORN INHABITANT ON SOME OTHER EARTH'S **SAVAGE LAND**, SHE'S NEVER KNOWN A LIFE WHERE TOUCHING PEOPLE RESULTS IN FATAL CONSEQUENCES.



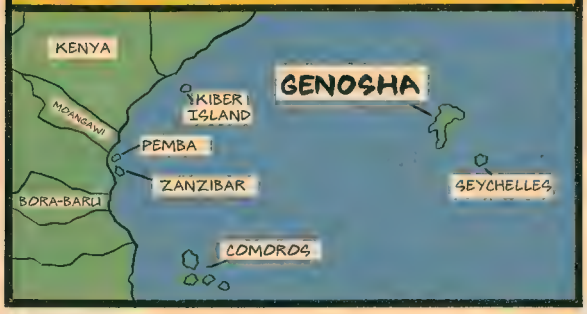
SOME **X-MEN** WHO TRAVELED THROUGH **SIEGE PERILOUS** ARE STILL IN THE SAME PLANE OF EXISTENCE AS **WOLVERINE**, THOUGH THEY ARE FOREVER CHANGED BY **ROMA'S** TRINKET.

ORORO MUNROE/STORM WAKES UP IN A **CAIRO, ILLINOIS**, HOSPITAL, AN AMNESIAC CHILD CALLED **JANE DOE**. SHE KNOWS THAT'S NOT RIGHT.

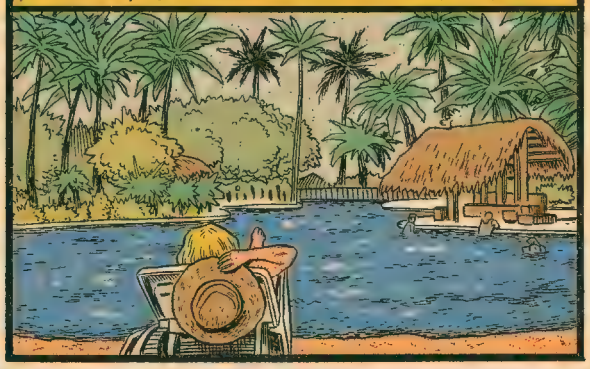
PSYLOCKE WAS PSYCHOLOGICALLY MALLEABLE WHEN THE **HAND** ORGANIZATION FOUND HER. SHE IS NOW IN THEIR EMPLOY, AN ASSASSIN WHO GETS PAID WITH FOOD AND SHELTER.

ALEX SUMMERS/HAVOK LANDED ON THE DOORSTEP OF **GENOSHA'S** COMMANDER GENERAL. ANOTHER OF **ROMA'S** GIFTS IS THAT HIS MUTANT GENE IS NOT DETECTABLE VIA PHYSICAL EXAMINATION.

GENOSHA IS A MYSTERIOUS NATION ON THE WORLD STAGE. THE ISLAND IS COMPLETELY SELF-SUSTAINING AND IT EXPORTS FAR MORE GENEROUSLY THAN NECESSARY, ALMOST TO BRIBE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND WORLD SUPERPOWERS TO LOOK THE OTHER WAY.

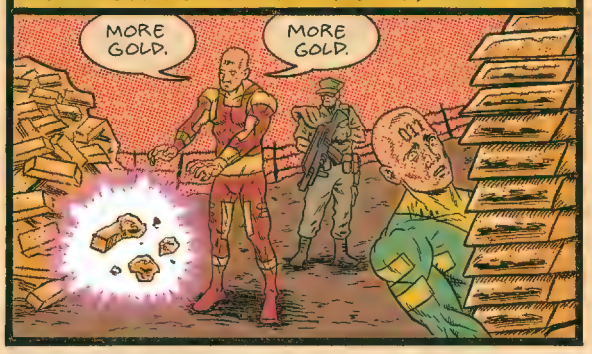


THE CITIZENRY CONSIDERS THEIR STANDARD OF LIVING TO BE "NEARLY UTOPIAN." EMIGRATION ISN'T POSSIBLE, BUT THE RESIDENTS DON'T MIND.

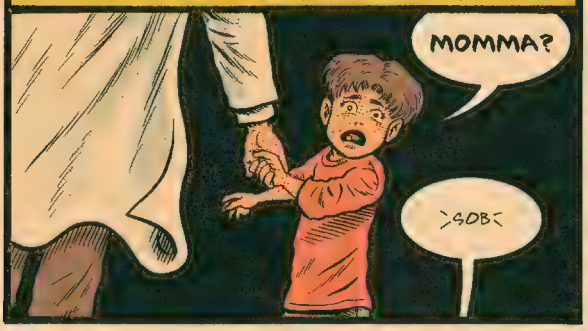


WHY, THEN, ARE THESE TWO YOUNG **GENOSHANS** SNEAKING OFF TO THE **UNITED STATES** ON THIS MONTH'S TRANSPORT OF LITHIUM?

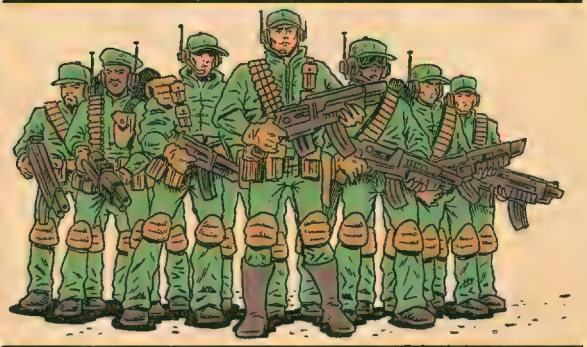
PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE **MUTANTS** ARE STATE PROPERTY IN **GENOSHA**. THIS SECRET LABOR FORCE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COUNTRY'S LIMITLESS WEALTH OF RESOURCES.



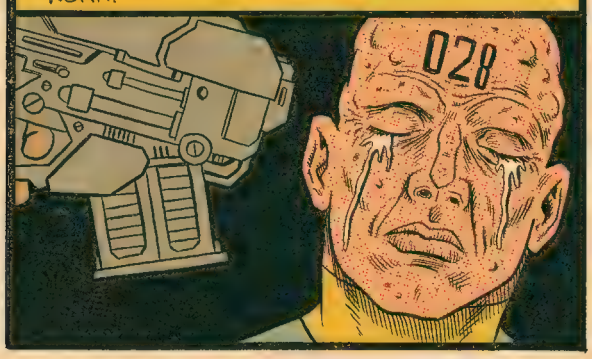
WHEN DOCTORS IDENTIFY DORMANT MUTANT GENES WITHIN A CHILD, THEY'RE THEN HANDED OFF TO THE **GENEGINEER** WHO RECONFIGURES THEIR DNA, TURNING THEM INTO **MUTATES** WHO THEN FILL GAPS IN THE SLAVE CAMPS.



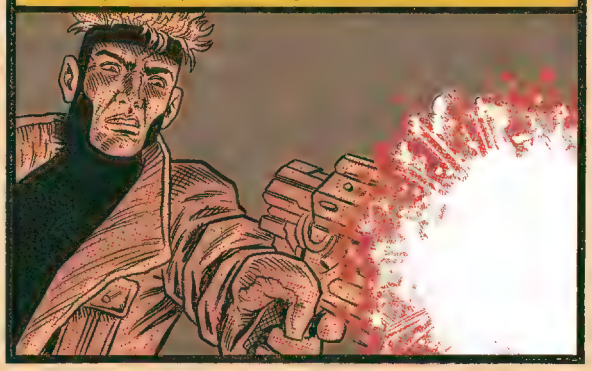
THE **PRESS GANG** IS CALLED TO ACTION IN THE RARE CASES WHEN **GENOSHANS** WANDER OFF THE ISLAND. THEY'RE PERMITTED TO USE FORCE IF NECESSARY TO BRING FUGITIVES BACK HOME.



FAR WORSE PUNISHMENT IS PERMITTED IF THE FUGITIVE IS A MUTANT. THE **GENOSHAN MAGISTRATES** USUALLY HANDLE THIS LINE OF WORK.



ALEX SUMMERS IS BECOMING A RISING STAR AMONGST THESE MAGISTRATES, SPECIALIZING IN "RETIREMENT DETAIL."



FORGE HAS OPTED FOR TOTAL ISOLATION AS A KIND OF PENANCE FOR HIS ROLE IN RECENT CALAMITIES. HE'S BEEN LIVING WITH THE BURDEN OF SACRIFICING THE X-MEN FOR THE GREATER GOOD AND MOURNING THE DECISION, UNTIL TODAY...

BY THE GREAT SPIRITS!

ORORO!

THE ONLY TRUSTWORTHY PEOPLE FORGE MAY SHARE HIS VISIONS WITH RESIDE ON MUIR ISLAND.

SLOW DOWN, FORGE. I KNOW NOTHING OF THE SORT, BUT WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT IF I WERE TO BET ON ANYBODY DEFYING DEATH IT WOULD BE THE X-MEN.

THE PAST FEW DAYS HAVE BEEN PRETTY EVENTFUL HERE TOO. I FISHED POLARIS OUT OF THE WATER AFTER A PLANE CRASH ON THE WAY HERE...

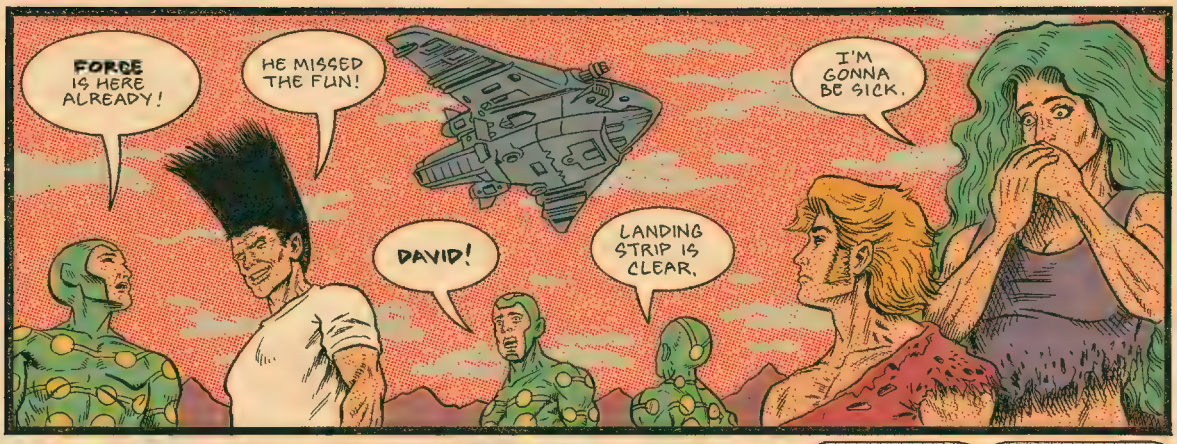
IT'S A TRAP! SHE'S BEEN POSSESSED BY MALICE, THE MARAUDER!

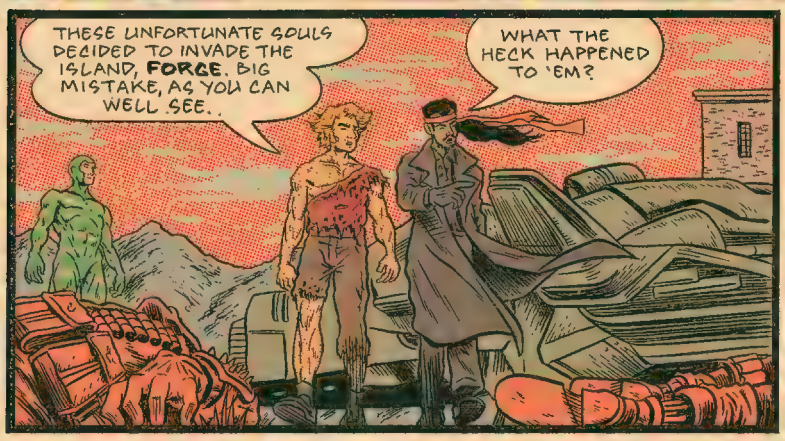
"OUR TESTS INDICATE THAT POLARIS HAD SOMEHOW PURGED HERSELF OF THAT PARASITE, BUT SHE'S CERTAINLY BEEN ALTERED. MOIRA CAN'T MAKE HEADS OR TAILS..."

IT'S QUITE REMARKABLE, ACTUALLY -- HUH? WHAT?!

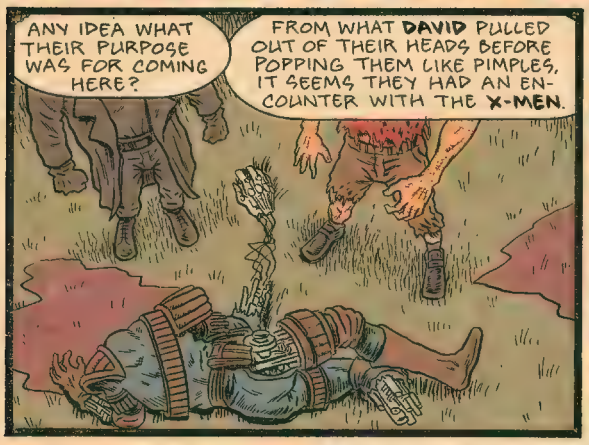
OH MY LORD!

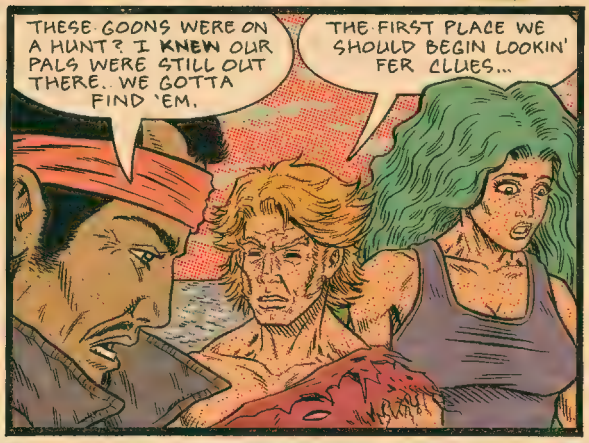
BANSHEE! WHAT IS IT?

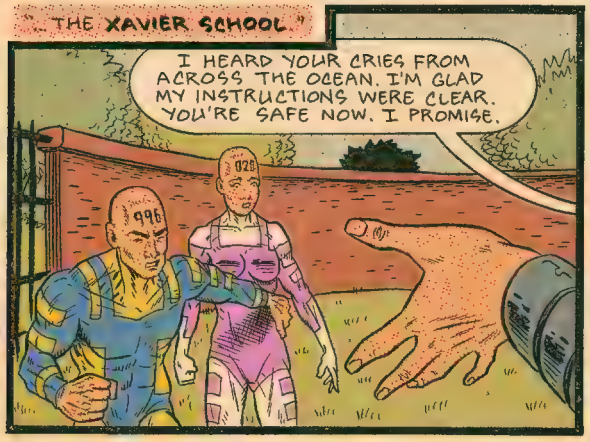

FORCE IS HERE ALREADY!
HE MISSED THE FUN!
DAVID!
LANDING STRIP IS CLEAR.
I'M GONNA BE SICK.


THESE UNFORTUNATE SOULS DECIDED TO INVADE THE ISLAND, FORCE. BIG MISTAKE, AS YOU CAN WELL SEE..
WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED TO 'EM?

DAVID HAPPENED TO THEM.
BAD GUYS! BAD BRAINS! GUNS! DID I DO RIGHT? I THINK I LIKED IT TOO MUCH.
BLORP!


ANY IDEA WHAT THEIR PURPOSE WAS FOR COMING HERE?
FROM WHAT DAVID PULLED OUT OF THEIR HEADS BEFORE POPPING THEM LIKE PIMPLES, IT SEEMS THEY HAD AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE X-MEN.


THESE GOONS WERE ON A HUNT? I KNEW OUR PALS WERE STILL OUT THERE. WE GOTTA FIND 'EM.
THE FIRST PLACE WE SHOULD BEGIN LOOKIN' FER CLUES...


"... THE XAVIER SCHOOL."
I HEARD YOUR CRIES FROM ACROSS THE OCEAN. I'M GLAD MY INSTRUCTIONS WERE CLEAR. YOU'RE SAFE NOW. I PROMISE.
996
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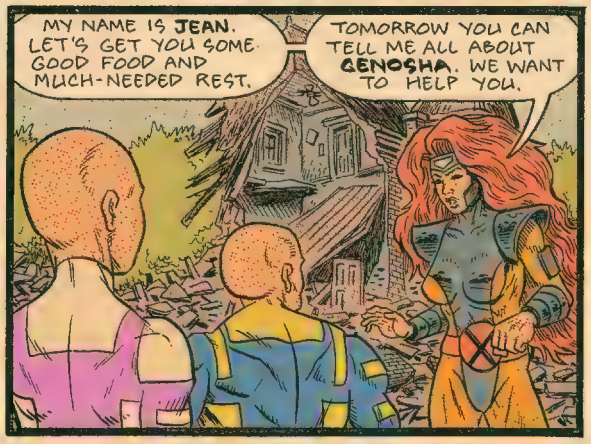
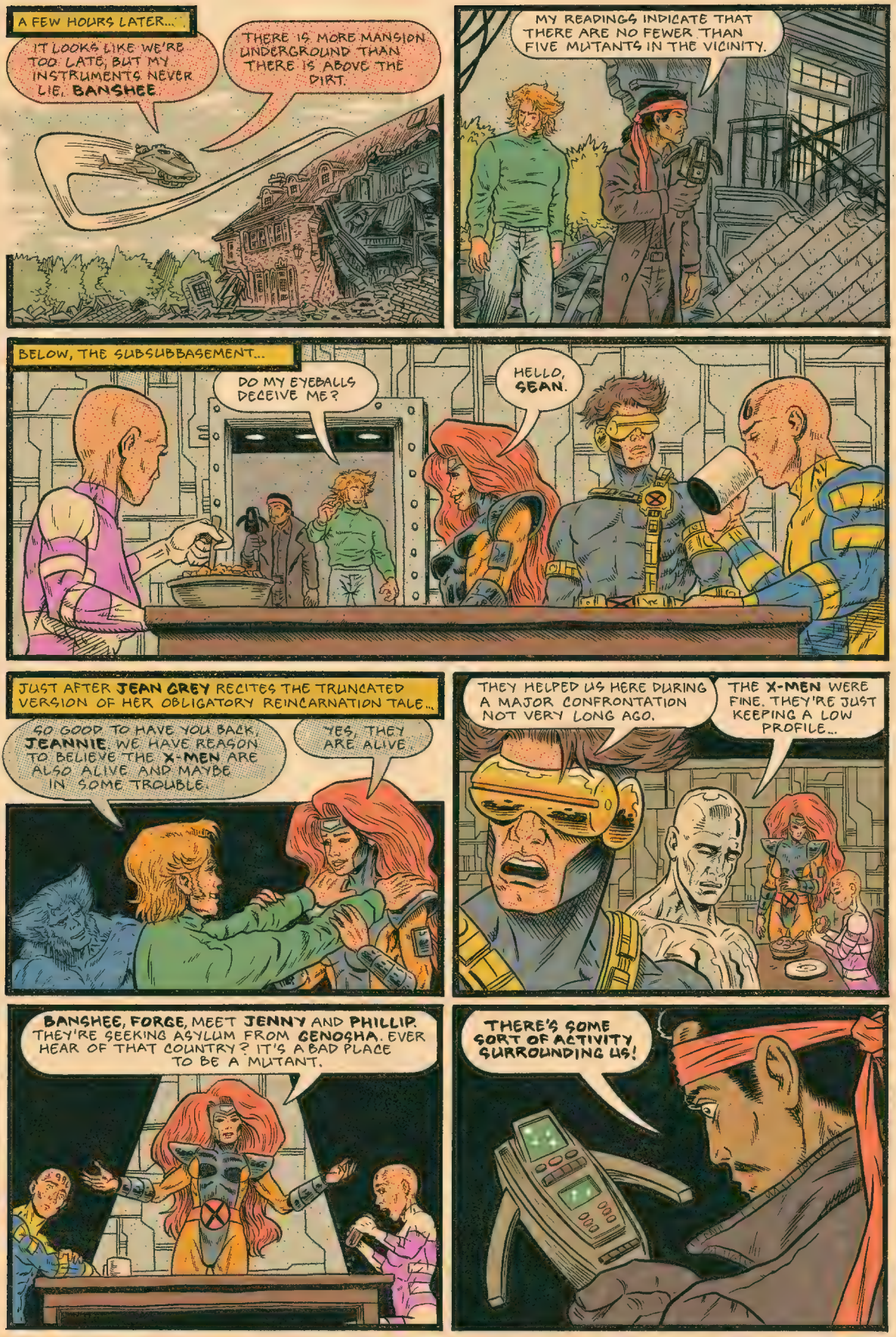
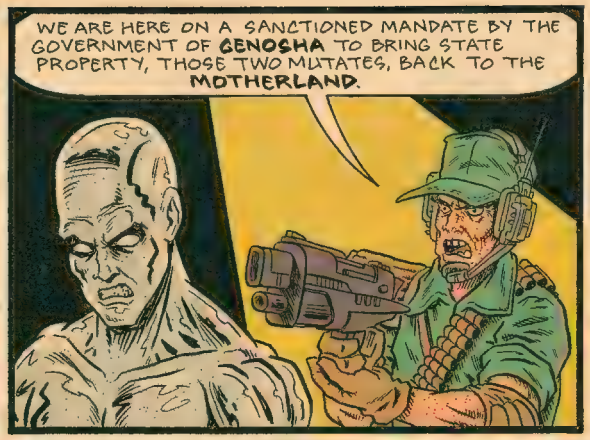
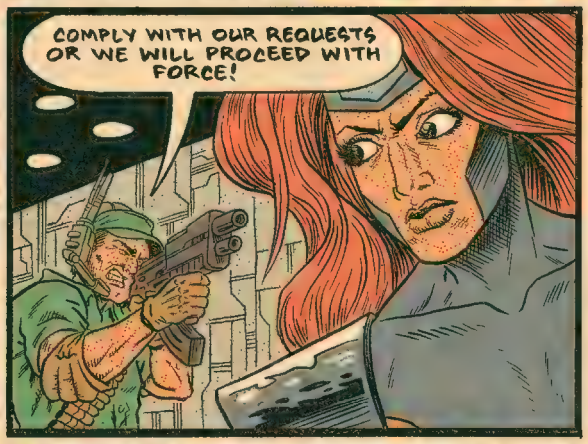
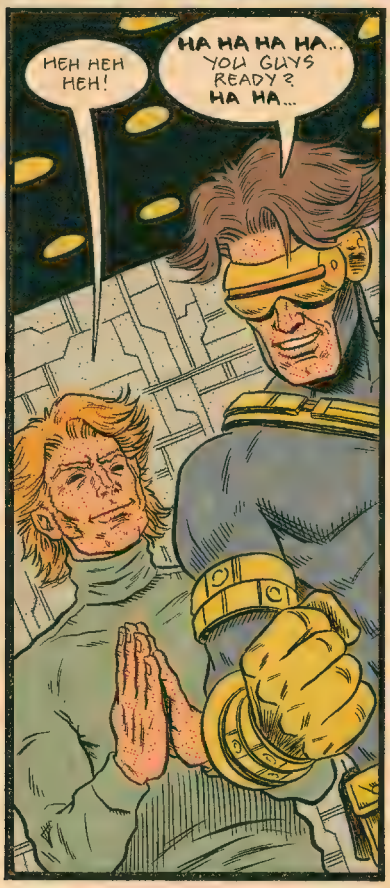

MY NAME IS JEAN. LET'S GET YOU SOME GOOD FOOD AND MUCH-NEEDED REST.
TOMORROW YOU CAN TELL ME ALL ABOUT GENOSHA. WE WANT TO HELP YOU.


A FEW HOURS LATER...
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE TOO LATE, BUT MY INSTRUMENTS NEVER LIE, BANSHEE.
THERE IS MORE MANSION UNDERGROUND THAN THERE IS ABOVE THE DIRT.
MY READINGS INDICATE THAT THERE ARE NO FEWER THAN FIVE MUTANTS IN THE VICINITY.
BELOW, THE SUBSUBBASEMENT...
DO MY EYEBALLS DECEIVE ME?
HELLO, SEAN.
JUST AFTER JEAN GREY RECITES THE TRUNCATED VERSION OF HER OBLIGATORY REINCARNATION TALE...
SO GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK, JEANNIE. WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THE X-MEN ARE ALSO ALIVE AND MAYBE IN SOME TROUBLE.
YES, THEY ARE ALIVE.
THEY HELPED US HERE DURING A MAJOR CONFRONTATION NOT VERY LONG AGO.
THE X-MEN WERE FINE. THEY'RE JUST KEEPING A LOW PROFILE...
BANSHEE, FORGE, MEET JENNY AND PHILLIP. THEY'RE SEEKING ASYLUM FROM GENOSHA. EVER HEAR OF THAT COUNTRY? IT'S A BAD PLACE TO BE A MUTANT.
THERE'S SOME SORT OF ACTIVITY SURROUNDING US!

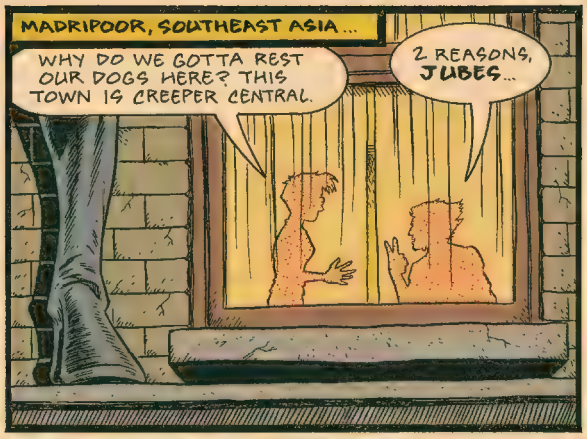
FREEZE! ALL OF YOU! NOW!

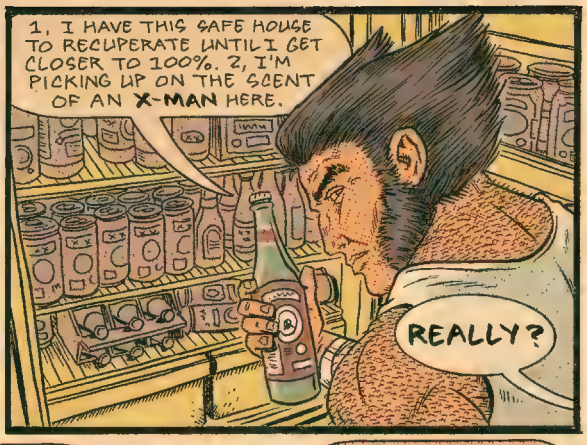

WE ARE HERE ON A SANCTIONED MANDATE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GENOSHA TO BRING STATE PROPERTY, THOSE TWO MUTATES, BACK TO THE MOTHERLAND.


COMPLY WITH OUR REQUESTS OR WE WILL PROCEED WITH FORCE!


HEH HEH HEH!
HA HA HA HA... YOU GUYS READY? HA HA...

MOMENTS LATER...
WE'LL DUMP THESE DORKS OFF TO THE FEDS.
PERFECT. WE HAVE TO GET THE KIDS TO SAFETY.

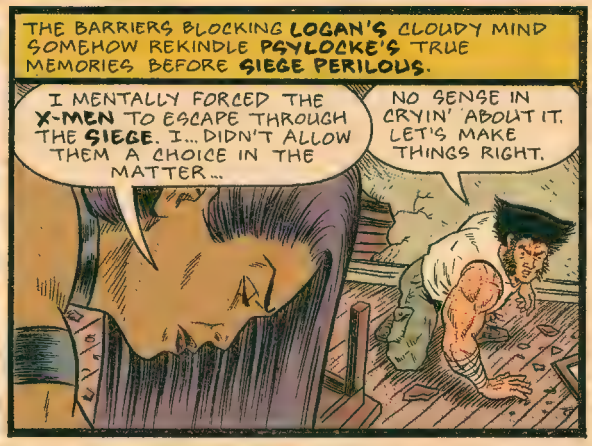

MADRIPOOR, SOUTHEAST ASIA...
WHY DO WE GOTTA REST OUR DOGS HERE? THIS TOWN IS CREEPER CENTRAL.
2 REASONS, JUBES...

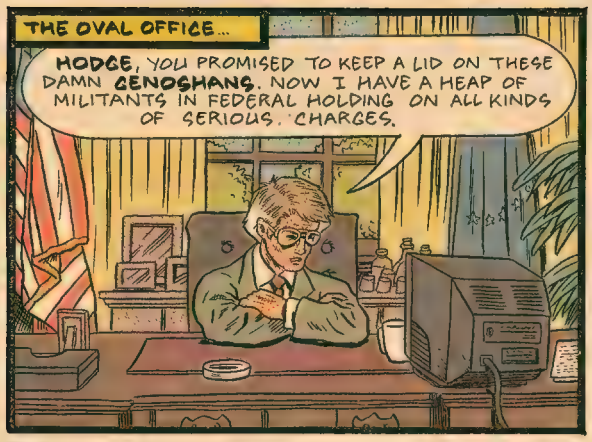

1, I HAVE THIS SAFE HOUSE TO RECUPERATE UNTIL I GET CLOSER TO 100%. 2, I'M PICKING UP ON THE SCENT OF AN X-MAN HERE.
REALLY?

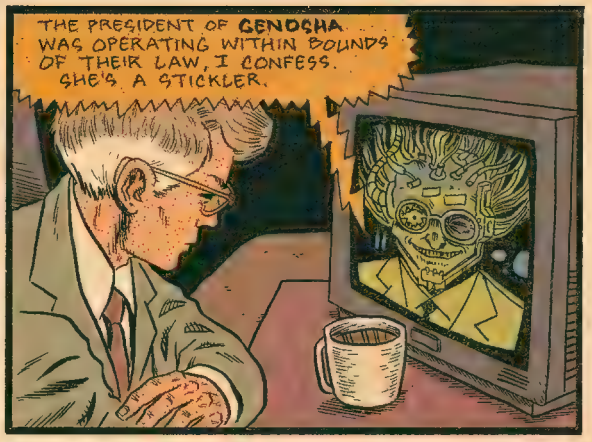
YEP.
SHE'S OUTSIDE THE WINDOW RIGHT NOW, MATTER A' FACT.

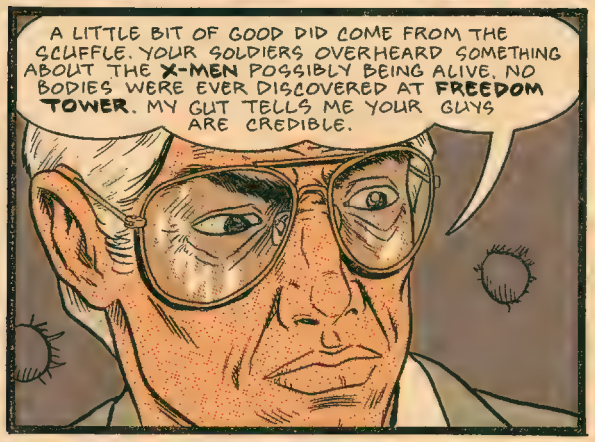
HEY, PSYLOCKE. SINCE WHEN DID YOU DEVELOP THE HAND'S STYLE OF FIGHTING?
SILVER SAMURAI SENDS HIS REGARDS.
SO MUCH FOR "SAFE HOUSE."

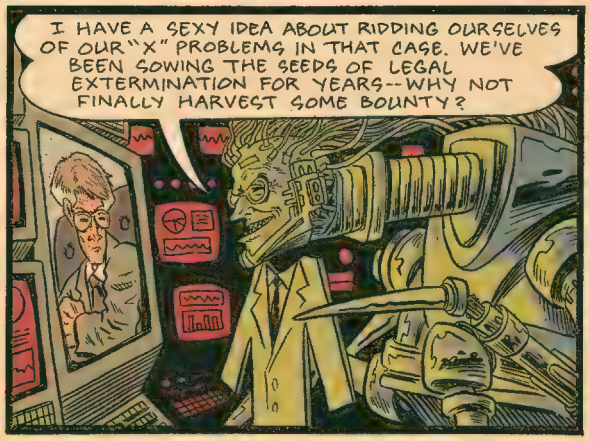
PSYLOCKE'S PSYCHIC KNIFE SPECIALIZES IN CARVING DEEPLY INTO THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF HER FOES.

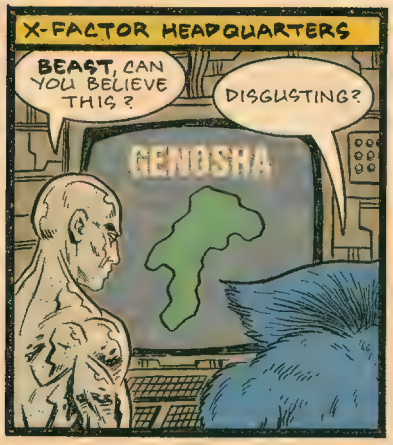

THE BARRIERS BLOCKING LOGAN'S CLOUDY MIND SOMEHOW REKINDLE PSYLOCKE'S TRUE MEMORIES BEFORE SIEGE PERILOUS.
I MENTALLY FORCED THE X-MEN TO ESCAPE THROUGH THE SIEGE. I... DIDN'T ALLOW THEM A CHOICE IN THE MATTER...
NO SENSE IN CRYIN' ABOUT IT. LET'S MAKE THINGS RIGHT.

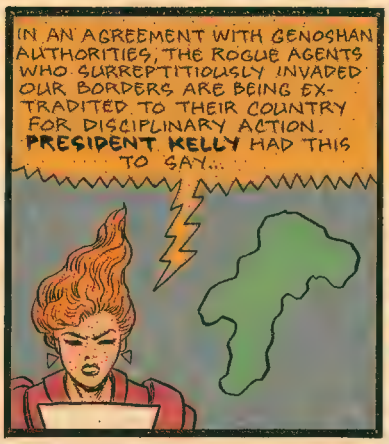

THE OVAL OFFICE...
HODGE, YOU PROMISED TO KEEP A LID ON THESE DAMN GENOSHANS. NOW I HAVE A HEAP OF MILITANTS IN FEDERAL HOLDING ON ALL KINDS OF SERIOUS CHARGES.

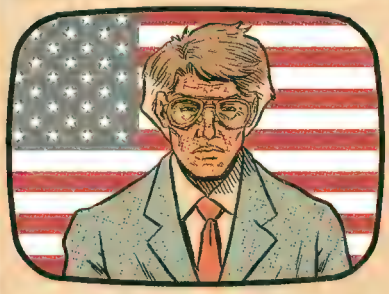

THE PRESIDENT OF GENOSHA WAS OPERATING WITHIN BOUNDS OF THEIR LAW, I CONFESS. SHE'S A STICKLER.

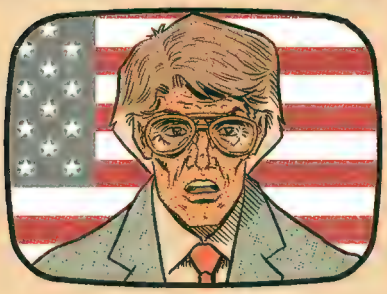

A LITTLE BIT OF GOOD DID COME FROM THE SCUFFLE. YOUR SOLDIERS OVERHEARD SOMETHING ABOUT THE X-MEN POSSIBLY BEING ALIVE. NO BODIES WERE EVER DISCOVERED AT FREEDOM TOWER. MY GUT TELLS ME YOUR GUYS ARE CREDIBLE.


I HAVE A SEXY IDEA ABOUT RIDDING OURSELVES OF OUR "X" PROBLEMS IN THAT CASE. WE'VE BEEN SOWING THE SEEDS OF LEGAL EXTERMINATION FOR YEARS--WHY NOT FINALLY HARVEST SOME BOUNTY?

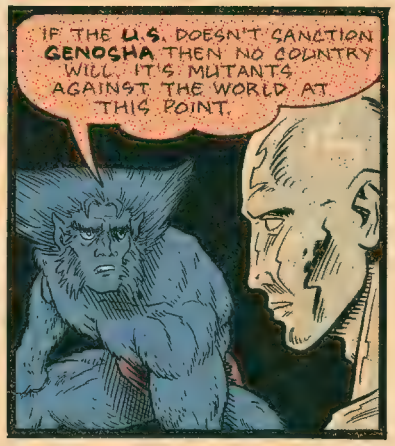

X-FACTOR HEADQUARTERS
BEAST, CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS?
DISGUSTING?
GENOSHA

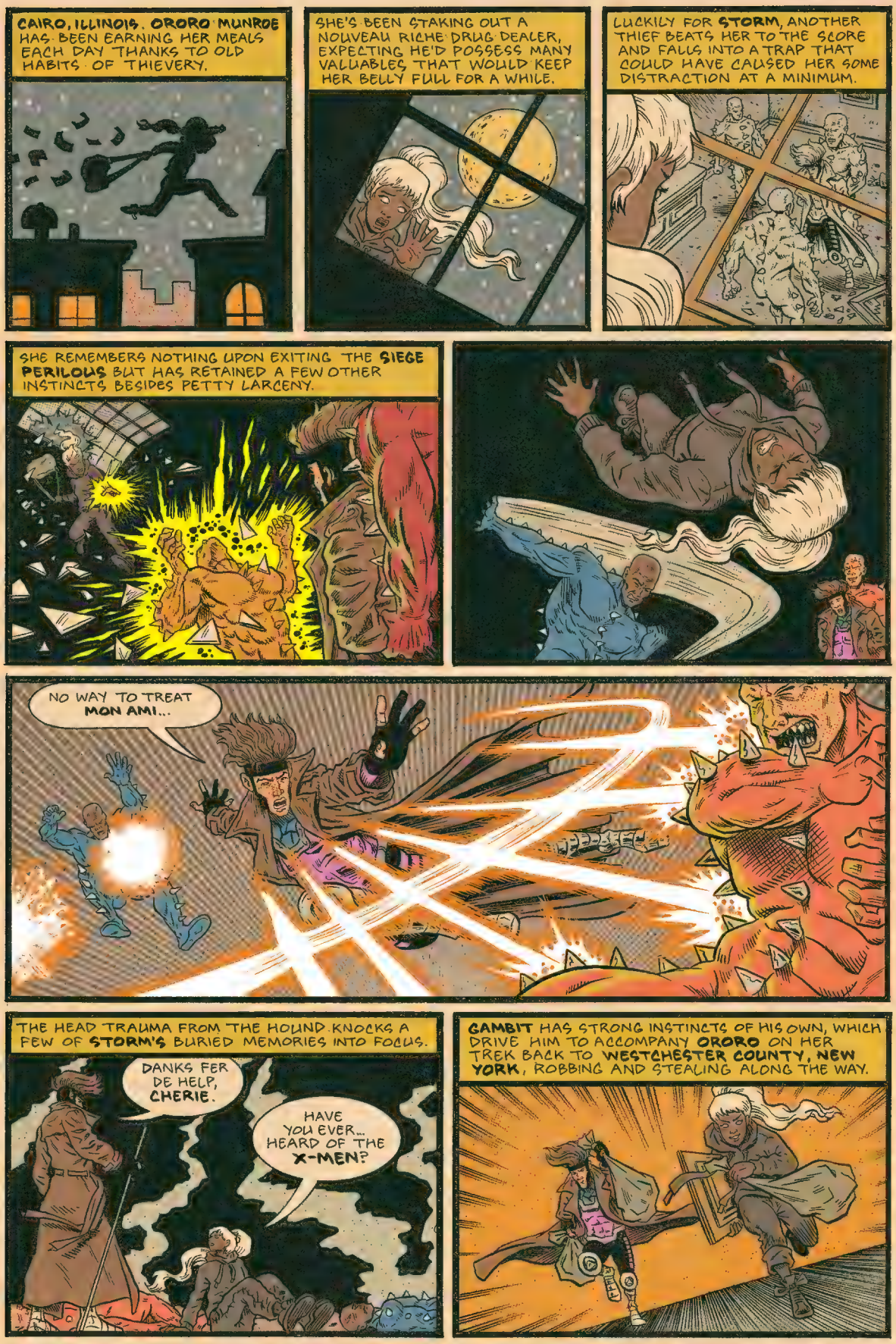

IN AN AGREEMENT WITH GENOSHAN AUTHORITIES, THE ROGUE AGENTS WHO SURREPTITIOUSLY INVADED OUR BORDERS ARE BEING EXTRADITED TO THEIR COUNTRY FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION. PRESIDENT KELLY HAD THIS TO SAY...


"...I'VE SPOKEN WITH THE PRESIDENT OF GENOSHA, WHO EXPRESSES TOTAL EMBARRASSMENT AT THE ACTIONS OF THESE STRAY SOLDIERS."


"SHE PROMISES TO CHARGE THESE PIRATES THE MOMENT THEY STEP FOOT ON GENOSHAN SOIL."

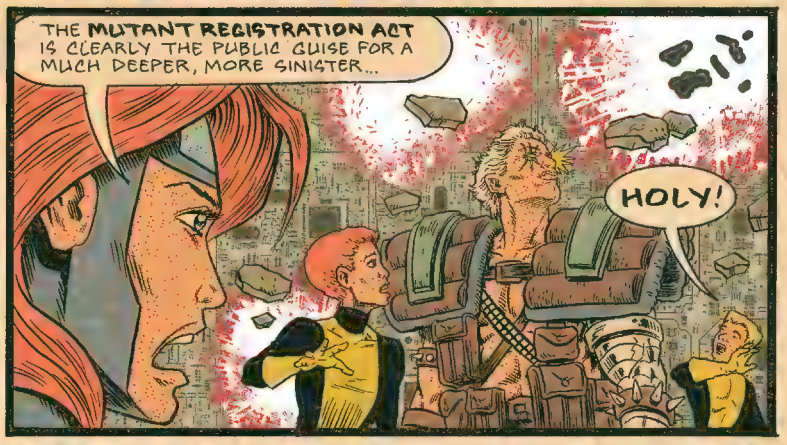
GENOSHA HAS ALWAYS BEEN A FRIEND TO OUR COUNTRY, AND IT WOULD BE FOOLISH TO UPSET OUR TRADE AGREEMENTS BECAUSE A FEW GRUNTS WENT OFF THE RANCH."

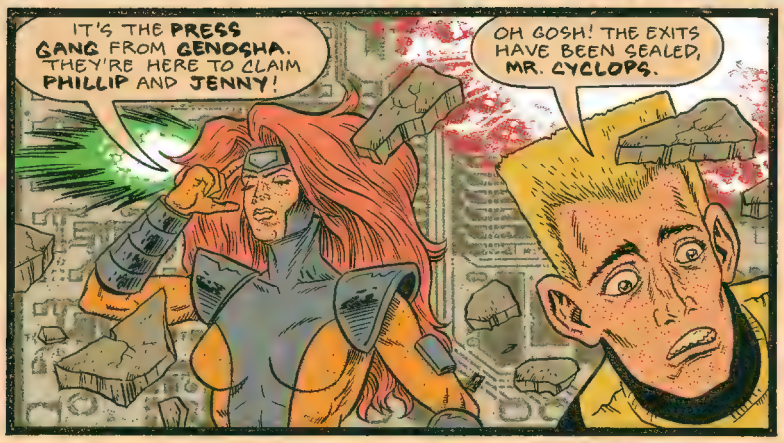

IF THE U.S. DOESN'T SANCTION GENOSHA THEN NO COUNTRY WILL. IT'S MUTANTS AGAINST THE WORLD AT THIS POINT.


CAIRO, ILLINOIS. ORORO MUNROE HAS BEEN EARNING HER MEALS EACH DAY THANKS TO OLD HABITS OF THIEVERY.
SHE'S BEEN STAKING OUT A NOUVEAU RICHE DRUG DEALER, EXPECTING HE'D POSSESS MANY VALUABLES THAT WOULD KEEP HER BELLY FULL FOR A WHILE.
LUCKILY FOR STORM, ANOTHER THIEF BEATS HER TO THE SCORE AND FALLS INTO A TRAP THAT COULD HAVE CAUSED HER SOME DISTRACTION AT A MINIMUM.
SHE REMEMBERS NOTHING UPON EXITING THE SIEGE PERILOUS BUT HAS RETAINED A FEW OTHER INSTINCTS BESIDES PETTY LARCENY.
NO WAY TO TREAT MON AMI...
THE HEAD TRAUMA FROM THE HOUND KNOCKS A FEW OF STORM'S BURIED MEMORIES INTO FOCUS.
DANKS FER DE HELP, CHERIE.
HAVE YOU EVER... HEARD OF THE X-MEN?
GAMBIT HAS STRONG INSTINCTS OF HIS OWN, WHICH DRIVE HIM TO ACCOMPANY ORORO ON HER TREK BACK TO WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK, ROBBING AND STEALING ALONG THE WAY.

THE RUINS OF THE XAVIER SCHOOL. ONE WEEK LATER...
ORORO, THANKS FOR ALLOWING ME TO GLIMPSE YOUR RECENT PAST LIKE THIS. HOPEFULLY THIS PSIONIC BOLT MAY HELP SHAKE A FEW COBWEBS LOOSE...

WHAT'S LEFT OF THE DANGER ROOM... 4 STORIES UNDERGROUND.
YOU'VE COME AT THE PERFECT TIME, ORORO.
I CALLED THIS MEETING BECAUSE I FEAR WE'VE A SITUATION ONLY ALPHA-LEVEL MUTANTS ARE PREPARED TO ADDRESS.
WAIT! THE X-MEN ARE ALIVE?


THE MUTANT REGISTRATION ACT IS CLEARLY THE PUBLIC GUISE FOR A MUCH DEEPER, MORE SINISTER...
HOLY!


IT'S THE PRESS GANG FROM GENOSHA. THEY'RE HERE TO CLAIM PHILLIP AND JENNY!
OH GOSH! THE EXITS HAVE BEEN SEALED, MR. CYCLOPS.

DID ANYBODY ESCAPE BEFORE THE CAVE-IN?
YES...

STORM, AND A FEW OF THE NEW MUTANTS...

MEMBERS OF THE **PRESS GANG** ARE GROOMED AND TRAINED THEIR ENTIRE LIVES TO HANDLE UNRULY MUTANT THREATS.

STUN GRENADES WON'T DO SQUAT AGAINST THAT FLYIN' MUTIE.

GOT 'ER.

HANDFUL OF MUTIES. GOOD HAUL.

LOAD 'EM UP, **SUMMERS**.

WE CAN BE SKYWARD IN TWO MINUTES.

DIRECTOR HODGE. WE WERE ABLE TO PROCURE 5 ALPHA-LEVEL MUTANTS AS PER YOUR INSTRUCTION.

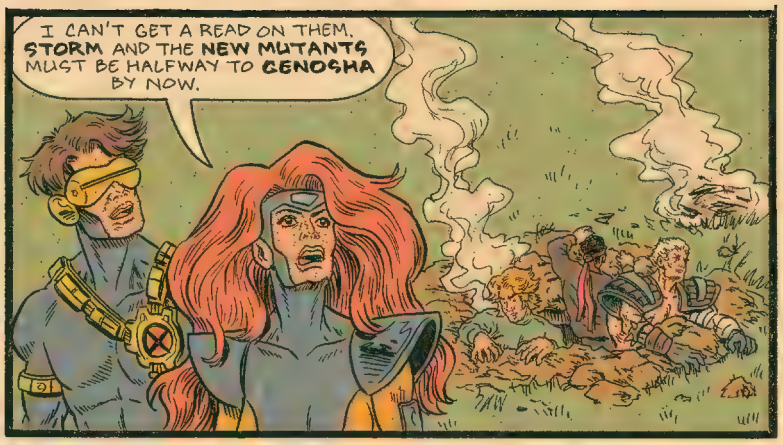
YOUNG ONES, BUT STRONGER THAN OUR INSTRUMENTS CAN READ.

GOOD BOYS AND GIRLS.. **X-TINCTION AGENDA** IS UNDERWAY...

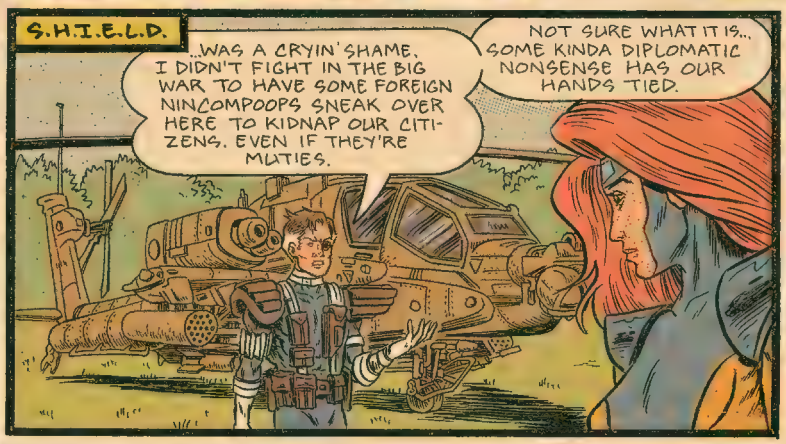
GENOSHA...

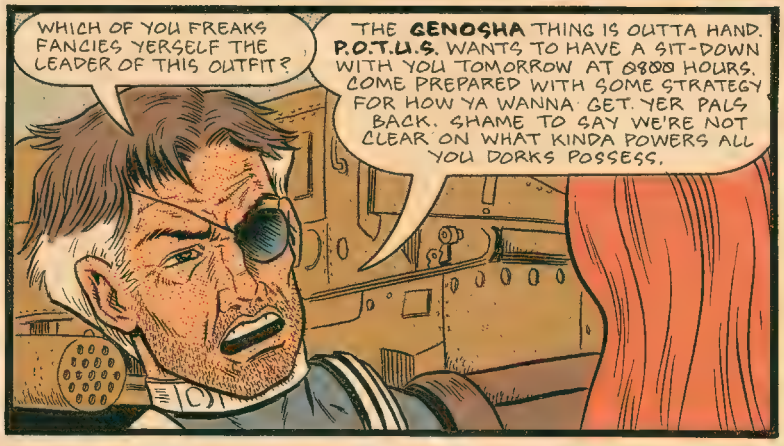
LET ME MAKE THIS CALL TO THE **PRESIDENT** SO THAT I CAN ENSURE YOUR SAFE PASSAGE OUT OF **AMERICAN** AIRSPACE...

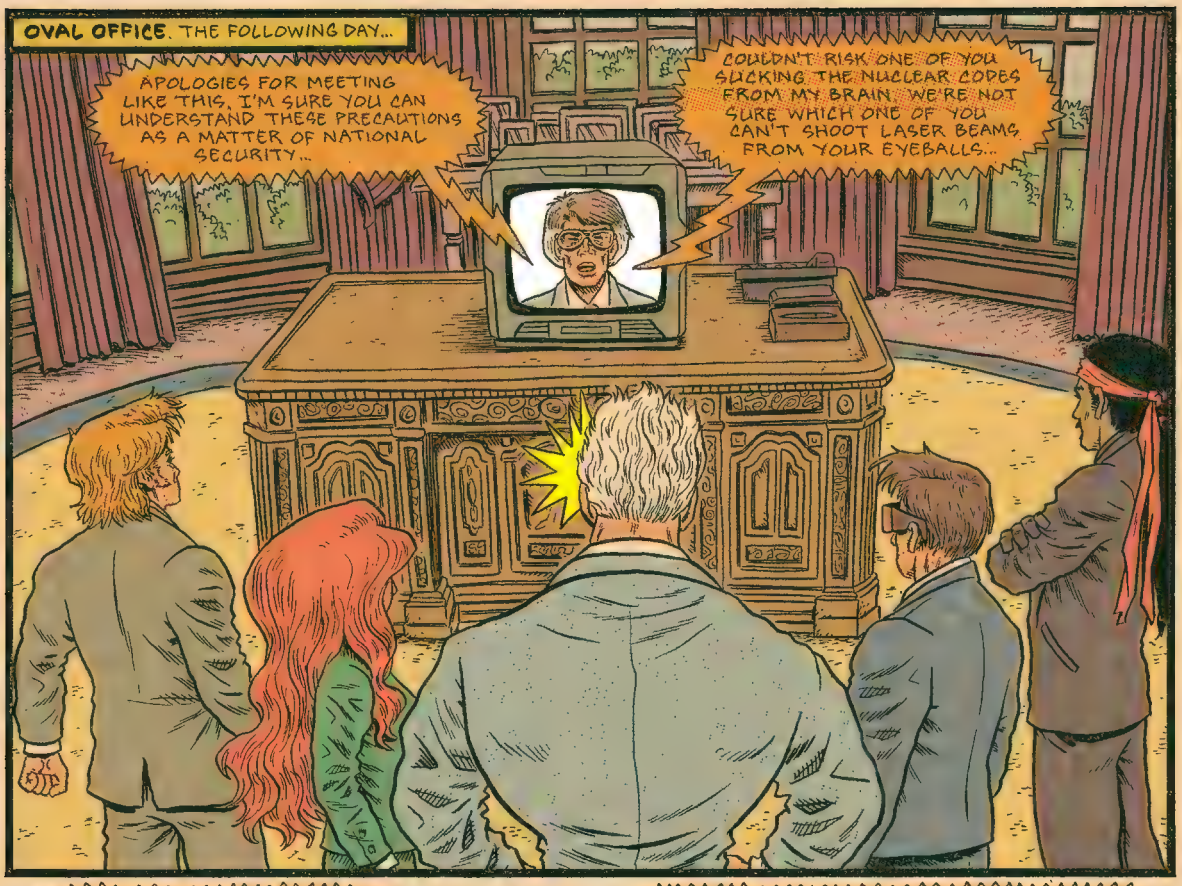
THE MUTANTS STUCK UNDERGROUND CONTINUE TO SCRAPE, CLAW AND BLAST THEIR WAY OUT UNTIL **CANNONBALL** GETS ANXIOUS.

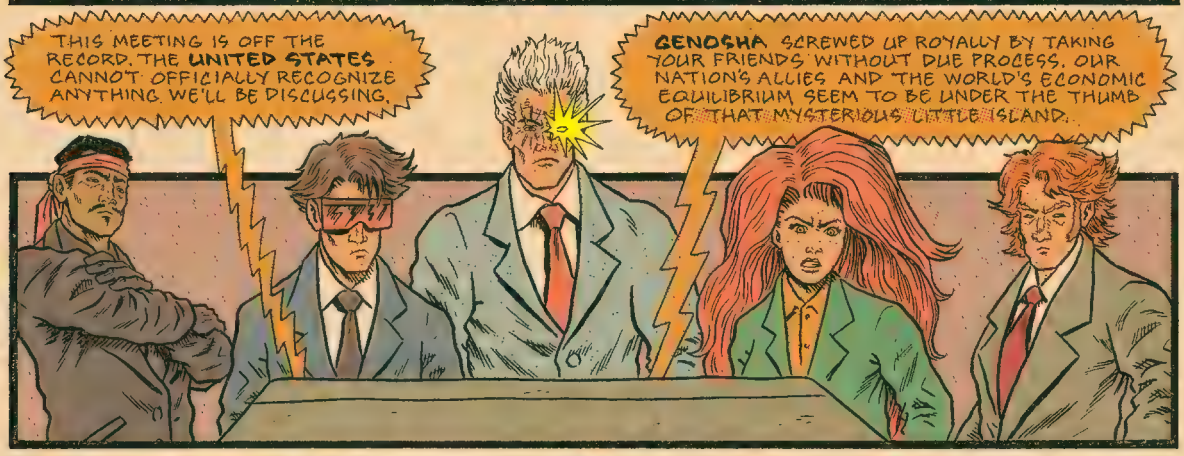


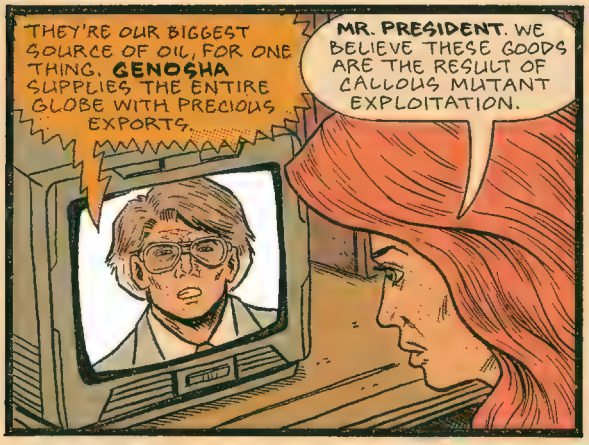
EVEN THOUGH THE **XAVIER SCHOOL** SITS ON A FEW REMOTE ACRES, THE **PRESS GANG'S** INVASION AROUSED PLENTY OF ATTENTION.

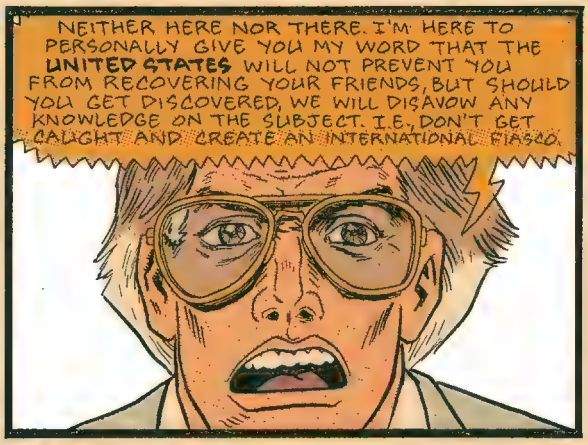




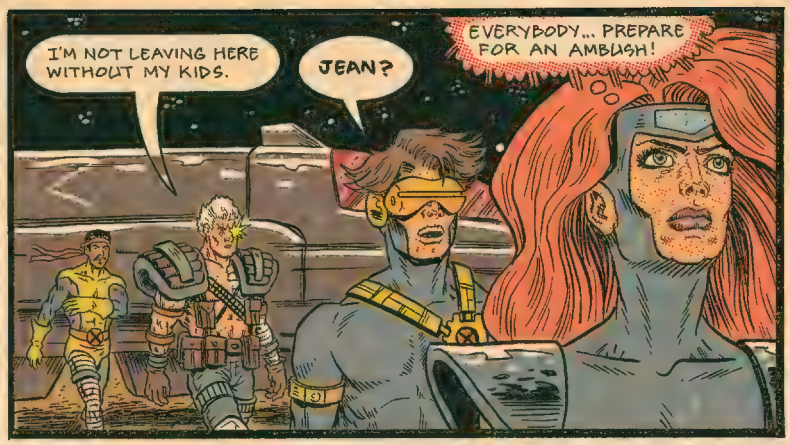

OVAL OFFICE. THE FOLLOWING DAY...
APOLOGIES FOR MEETING LIKE THIS. I'M SURE YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THESE PRECAUTIONS AS A MATTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY...
COULDN'T RISK ONE OF YOU SUCKING THE NUCLEAR CODES FROM MY BRAIN. WE'RE NOT SURE WHICH ONE OF YOU CAN'T SHOOT LASER BEAMS FROM YOUR EYEBALLS...

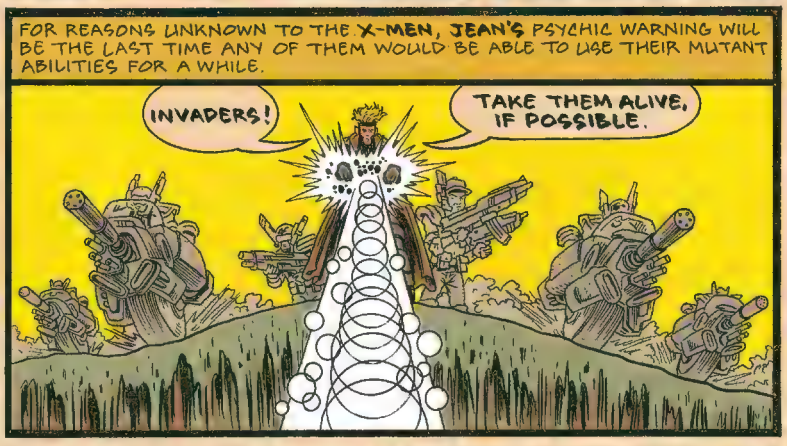

THIS MEETING IS OFF THE RECORD. THE UNITED STATES CANNOT OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZE ANYTHING WE'LL BE DISCUSSING.
GENOSHA SCREWED UP ROYALLY BY TAKING YOUR FRIENDS WITHOUT DUE PROCESS. OUR NATION'S ALLIES AND THE WORLD'S ECONOMIC EQUILIBRIUM SEEM TO BE UNDER THE THUMB OF THAT MYSTERIOUS LITTLE ISLAND.

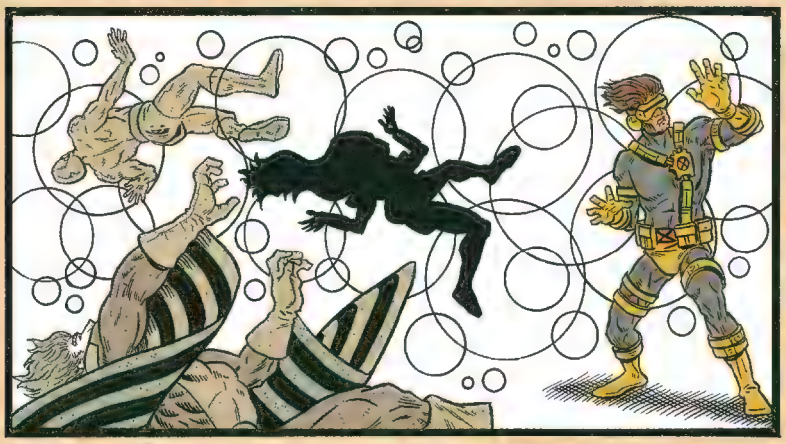

THEY'RE OUR BIGGEST SOURCE OF OIL, FOR ONE THING. GENOSHA SUPPLIES THE ENTIRE GLOBE WITH PRECIOUS EXPORTS.
MR. PRESIDENT. WE BELIEVE THESE GOODS ARE THE RESULT OF CALLOUS MUTANT EXPLOITATION.


NEITHER HERE NOR THERE. I'M HERE TO PERSONALLY GIVE YOU MY WORD THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT PREVENT YOU FROM RECOVERING YOUR FRIENDS, BUT SHOULD YOU GET DISCOVERED, WE WILL DISAVOW ANY KNOWLEDGE ON THE SUBJECT. I.E., DON'T GET CAUGHT AND CREATE AN INTERNATIONAL FIASCO.

GENOSHA.
MASTER, THE X-MEN HAVE ARRIVED. THE SOUTHERN BEACH.

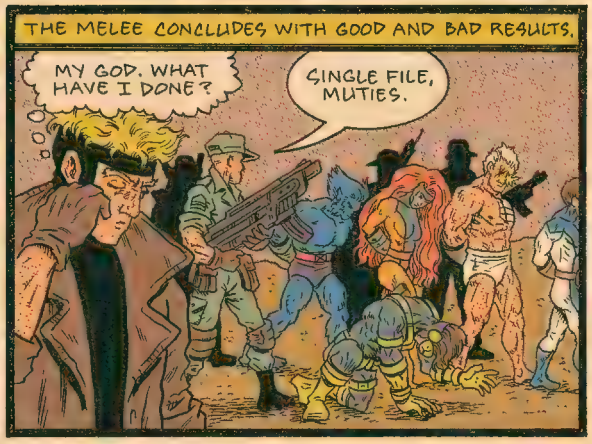

I'M NOT LEAVING HERE WITHOUT MY KIDS.
JEAN?
EVERYBODY... PREPARE FOR AN AMBUSH!


FOR REASONS UNKNOWN TO THE X-MEN, JEAN'S PSYCHIC WARNING WILL BE THE LAST TIME ANY OF THEM WOULD BE ABLE TO USE THEIR MUTANT ABILITIES FOR A WHILE.
INVADERS!
TAKE THEM ALIVE, IF POSSIBLE.



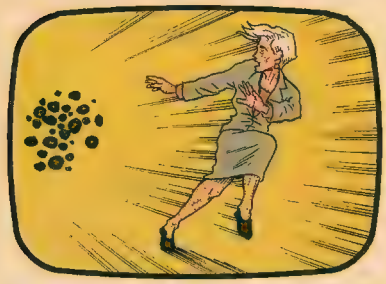
HAVOK?
ALEX?

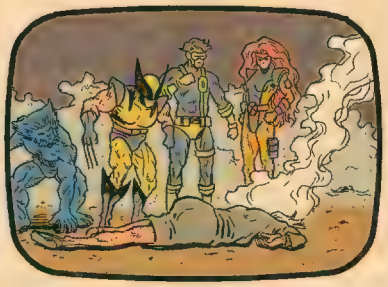
STINKIN' MUTIE!
HOW COULD YOU?!

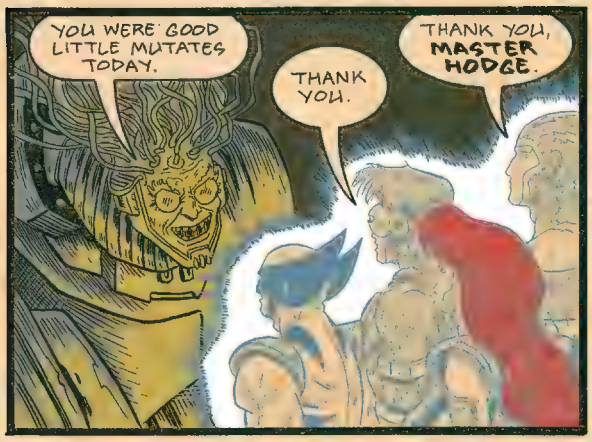

THE MELEE CONCLUDES WITH GOOD AND BAD RESULTS.
MY GOD. WHAT HAVE I DONE?
SINGLE FILE, MUTIES.

THE CONFRONTATION AT THE BEACH PROVIDED AN EXCELLENT DIVERSION FOR KEEPING GENOSHA'S CITADEL VULNERABLE TO INFILTRATION.
ALRIGHT, MR. GENEGINEER. ONE SIMPLE QUESTION, BUB.
WHERE DO YOU HAVE OUR FRIENDS LOCKED UP?
I CAN'T GET A READING. MY MENTAL POWERS ARE INHIBITED.
HOW DID YOU KNOW TO COME HERE? WHO LEAKED THIS INFORMATION?
MY PAL HERE HEARD THOSE KIDS WHIMPERING ALL THE WAY FROM MADRIPOOR.
LORD HELP ME!
NOW SPILL YER GUTS OR I'LL SPILL 'EM FOR YA.
>ULP<
UH... GUYS...
HAVE IT YER WAY!

ONCE ALL THE MUTANT INVADERS ARE APPREHENDED ON **GENOSHAN SOIL**, **CAMERON HODGE** RELEASES A DAMNING PACKAGE OF FILM TO NEWS AGENCIES ACROSS THE WORLD DOCUMENTING THE FINAL MOMENTS IN THE LIFE OF THAT TINY ISLAND'S PRESIDENT.

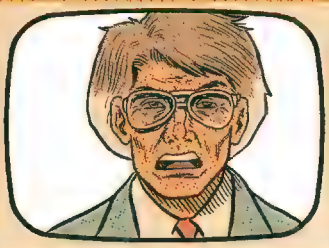




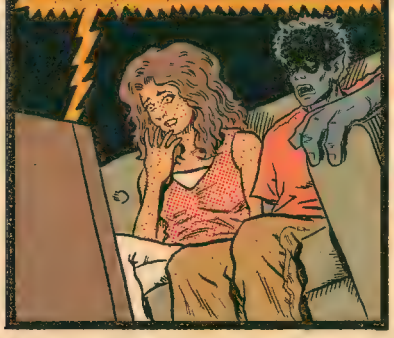


HODGE WOULD NEVER RISK DISSEMINATION OF THE TRUTH IN THE MATTER.

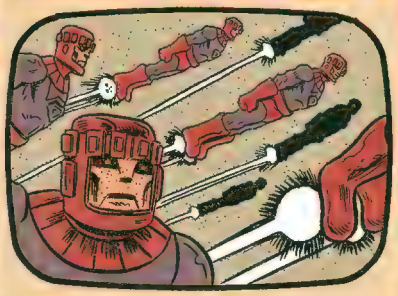
"OUR WORST NIGHTMARES ARE UPON US, MY FELLOW **AMERICANS**. THIS DAY WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF A PROSPERING COUNTRY'S LEADER AT THE HANDS OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS KNOWN AS **X-MEN**."



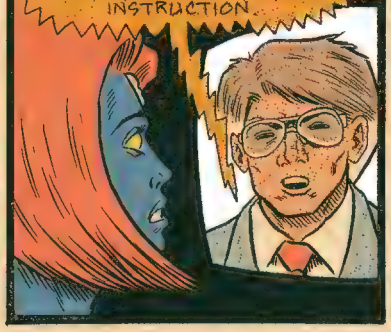
CONTINGENCY PLANS WERE WRITTEN INTO THE **MUTANT REGISTRATION ACT** IN THE EVENT THAT A CRIME AS HEINOUS AS THIS SHOULD EVER OCCUR.



"AFTER TODAY'S EMERGENCY MEETING WITH 20 OF THE WORLD'S SUPERPOWERS, WE UNANIMOUSLY AGREE TO INSTITUTE **PROJECT: NIMROD** EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY."



ALL MUTANTS, REGISTERED AND UNREGISTERED ALIKE, FOR YOUR OWN SAKES, PLEASE REPORT TO YOUR NEAREST FEDERAL BUILDING FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTION.



THE CITIZENS OF **GENOSHA** DEMAND A WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL FOR THE **X-MEN** BEFORE THEIR LEADER'S BODY IS IN THE DIRT. AFTER THE RAPID GUILTY VERDICT, THE MUTANTS WERE EACH GIVEN TWO OPTIONS: A LIFE SENTENCE OF LOBOTOMIZED HARD LABOR OR DEATH.

YOUR CHOICES? **NOW!**

WHAT SAY YOU?

FORGE

KILL ME.

ICEMAN

DEATH.

JEAN GREY

I NO LONGER FEAR DEATH.

BEAST

GIVE ME LIBERTY OR GIVE ME DEATH.

CABLE

ARCHANGEL

DEATH.

BANSHEE

DEATH.

JUBILEE

UM... NO THIRD OPTION, HUH?

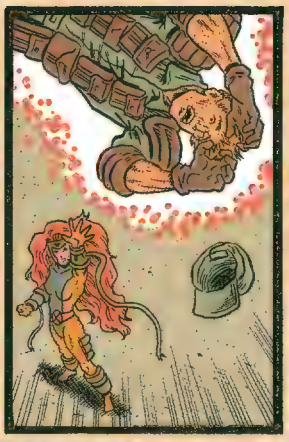
PSYLOCKE

MARTYRDOM.

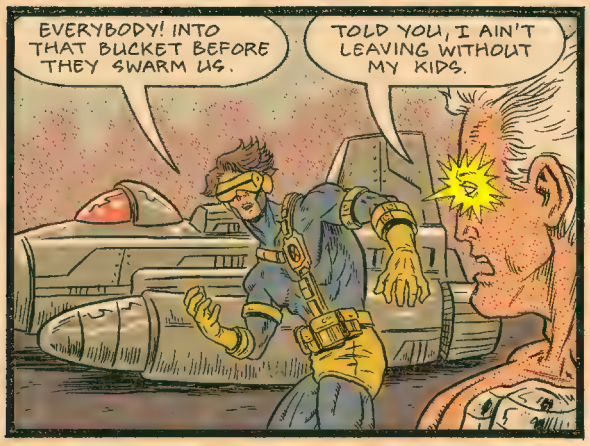
WOLVERINE

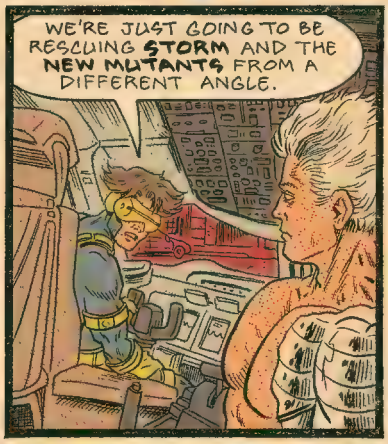
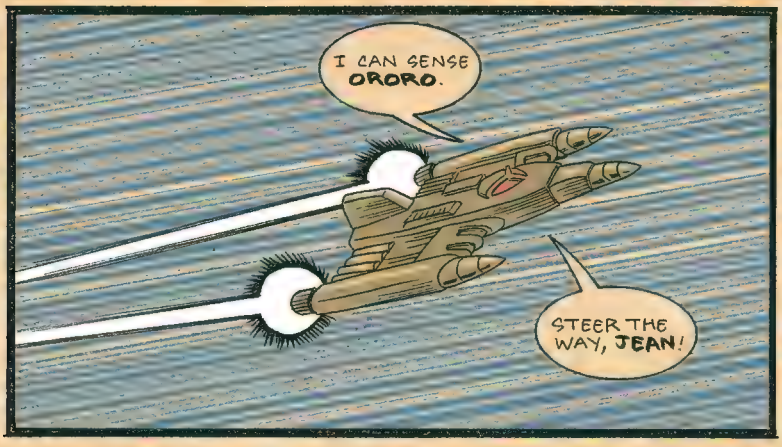
@★#!

UPSTAIRS FROM THE COURT PROCEEDINGS, ALEX SUMMERS STALKS THE HALLS WITH HIS FULL WITS ABOUT HIM AS WELL AS POSSESSING PRIVILEGED KNOWLEDGE ENTRUSTED AMONG HIGH-RANKING MEMBERS OF THE GENOSHAN MILITARY.
KNOWLEDGE LIKE THE FACT THAT THE MUTATE KNOWN AS WIPEOUT HAS THE SINGULAR ABILITY TO INHIBIT MUTANT POWERS WITHIN A LIMITED AREA OF EFFECT.
FORGIVE ME.
INSTANTANEOUSLY, DOWNSTAIRS IN THE COURTROOM...
DO YOU FEEL IT TOO?
HOW IS IT POSSIBLE?
MY EYES...
NICK OF TIME, YOU ASK ME.
KEEP CALM FOR THE MOMENT.
DEATH IS YOUR CHOICE AND SO IT SHALL BE!
BAILIFF! TAKE THESE... THINGS OUT OF MY SIGHT.

NOW!


HERE COMES THE JUDGE!

WAS THAT NECESSARY, LOGAN?
SUCKER. CHOSE THE WRONG LINE OF WORK.

EVERYBODY! INTO THAT BUCKET BEFORE THEY SWARM US.
TOLD YOU, I AIN'T LEAVING WITHOUT MY KIDS.

NONE OF US ARE LEAVIN' WITHOUT 'EM, BUB.

WE'RE JUST GOING TO BE RESCUING STORM AND THE NEW MUTANTS FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE.

I CAN SENSE ORORO.
STEER THE WAY, JEAN!

WITHIN THE GRAND CITADEL...
KELLY, YOU BASTARD.
GENERAL, FORGET THE JET. WE HAVE A FAR BIGGER PROBLEM THAN THE X-MEN.

INCOMING!

COMIN' FROM THE WRONG DIRECTION TO BE A GENOSHAN PAYLOAD.

WHERE THEY COMING FROM, THEN?
AMERICA...

... AND WE'RE CLEARLY NOT THE TARGET.

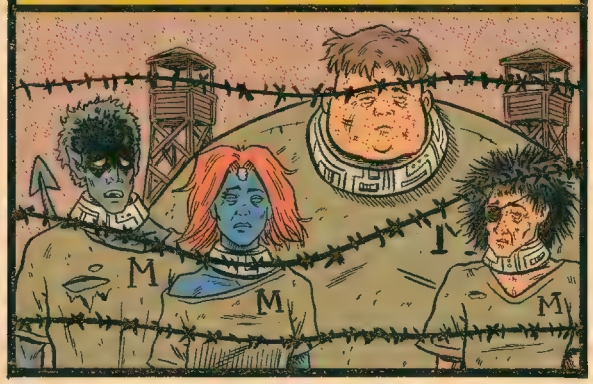
THOSE ARE NUKES! JEAN! PSYLOCKE? DO SOMETHING!!
ORORO!

" IT'S... TOO LATE... OUR ABILITIES HAVE LIMITS..."

BLINK!

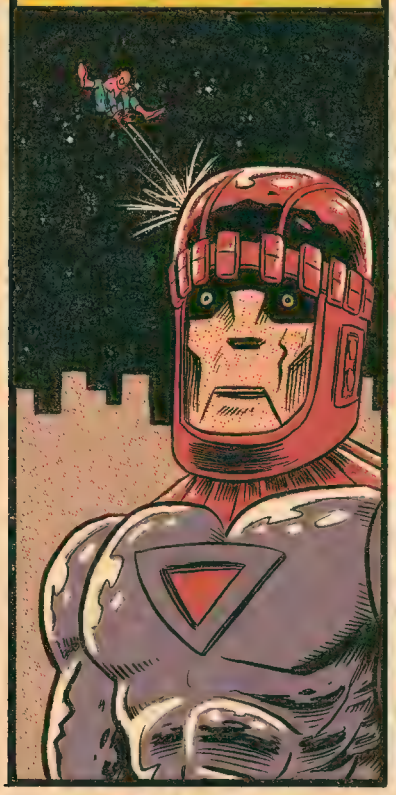
IT TAKES AN EARTH YEAR FOLLOWING THE ANNIHILATION OF **GENOSHA** FOR THE **SENTINELS** TO SEPARATE THE MUTANTS FROM THE HUMANS ACROSS THE **UNITED STATES**.

FIRST, THE INTERNMENT CAMPS BEGIN BURSTING AT THE SEAMS WITH NEUTRALIZED MOBS.



THEN THOSE CAMPS TRANSFORM INTO LANDFILLS OF DEATH.

IT TAKES ANOTHER **EARTH** YEAR FOR THERE TO BE ANY SERIOUS INQUIRY INTO THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE MUTANTS.



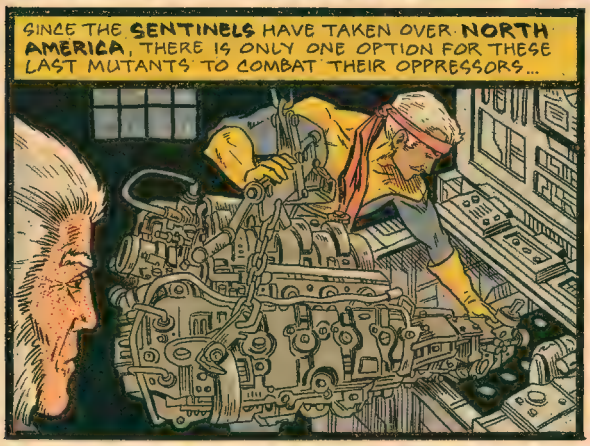
BY THE FOURTH YEAR OF **GENOSHA'S** DESTRUCTION, THE **SUPER HERO** THREAT TO THE **SENTINELS** IS RENDERED IMPOTENT.

DURING THIS HOPELESS TIME, A FEW SURVIVING MUTANTS ENDURE IN THE SHADOWS AND PLAN.

EVEN THOUGH THE SENTINELS HAVE COMPLETED THEIR MISSION, THEY CONTINUE TO MULTIPLY LIKE A TECHNO-VIRUS.
THEIR RIGID, ARTIFICIAL INTELLECT BEGINS CALCULATING FURTHER EXAMPLES OF MUTATION AMONGST THE HUMAN RACE.
THEN THEY COME FOR THE HUMANS WHO HAVE SPAWNED MUTANTS.
THE SENTINELS HAVE DEVELOPED SENSITIVE ENOUGH INSTRUMENTATION TO DETECT A DORMANT MUTANT GENE OR TWO INSIDE OF PRESIDENT KELLY.
HE DOESN'T GET TO SEE AN EIGHTH TERM IN OFFICE.
MANY YEARS LATER, THE HIDDEN MUTANTS CONTINUE THEIR OPERATIONS. FORGE ISN'T AS FAST AT BUILDING THINGS AS HE ONCE WAS.
...JUST NOT SURE HOW TO POWER THE GIZMO WITH THE ELECTRICAL GRID DOWN.
BE RIGHT BACK.

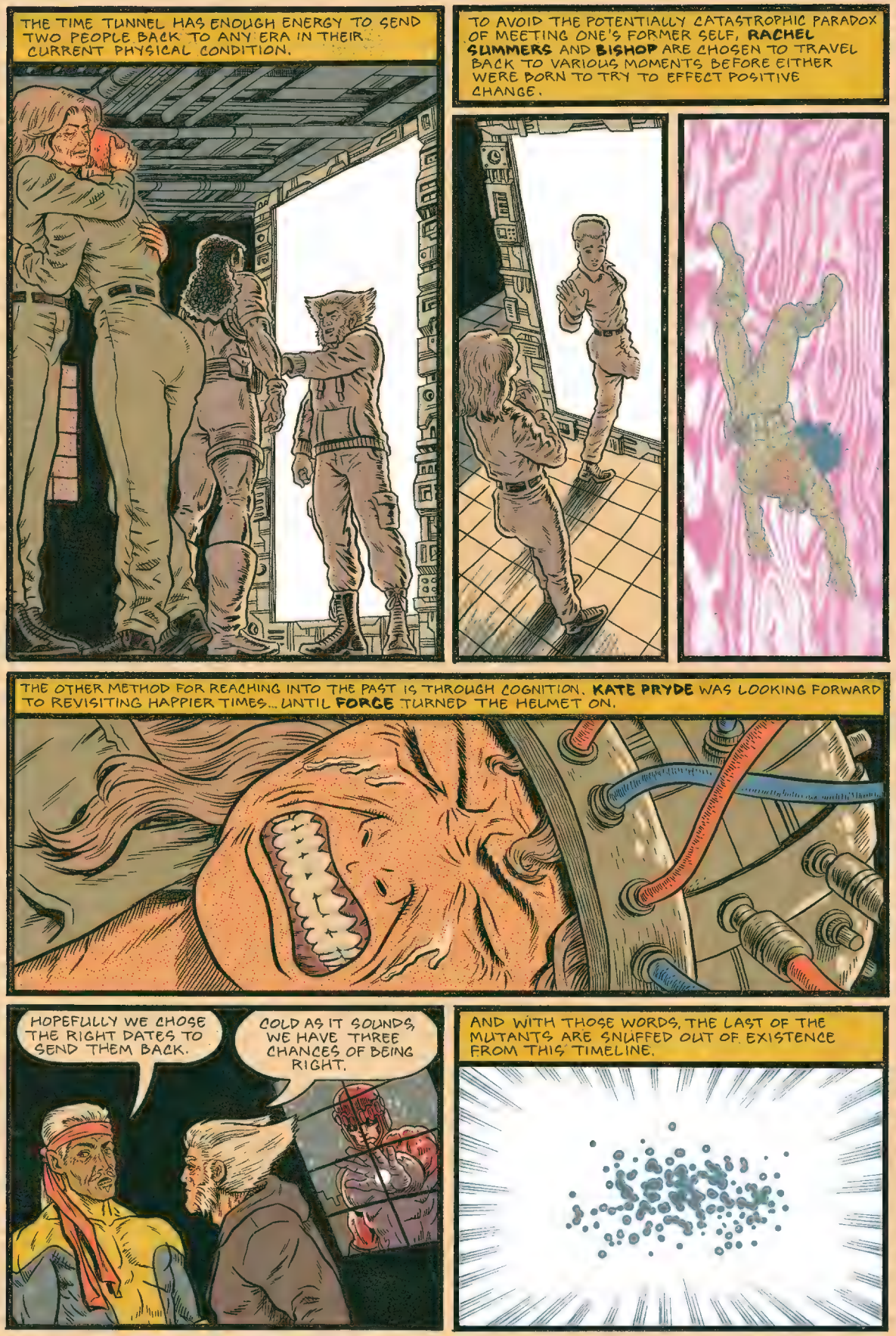
COULDN'T HELP BEING A TOUCH TOO LOUD THERE FOR MY TASTE.

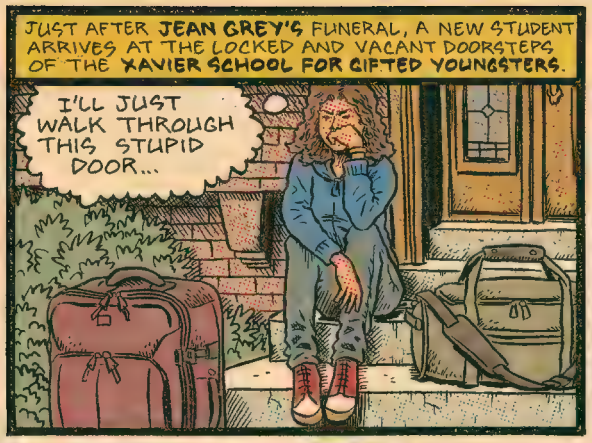
MOMENTS LATER...
A SQUADRON WILL BE SWEEPING THE AREA ONCE THEY FIND THAT DEACTIVATED ROBOT. WE AIN'T GOT MUCH TIME.
PERFECT, **LOGAN**! THIS "BRAIN" IS AT FULL POWER.

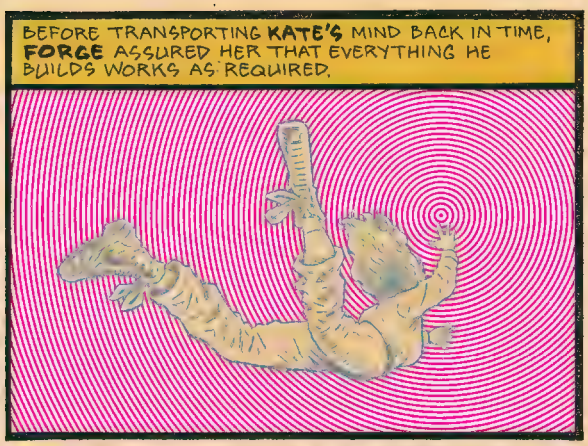

SINCE THE **SENTINELS** HAVE TAKEN OVER **NORTH AMERICA**, THERE IS ONLY ONE OPTION FOR THESE LAST MUTANTS TO COMBAT THEIR OPPRESSORS...

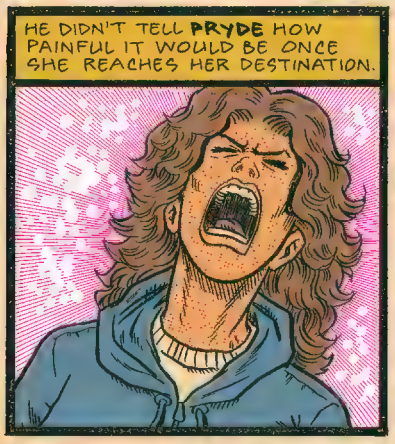
THEY MUST GO BACK IN TIME TO PREVENT ANY TRIGGERING EVENTS THAT MAY HAVE LED TO THE CHAOS OF THEIR MODERN CONDITION.

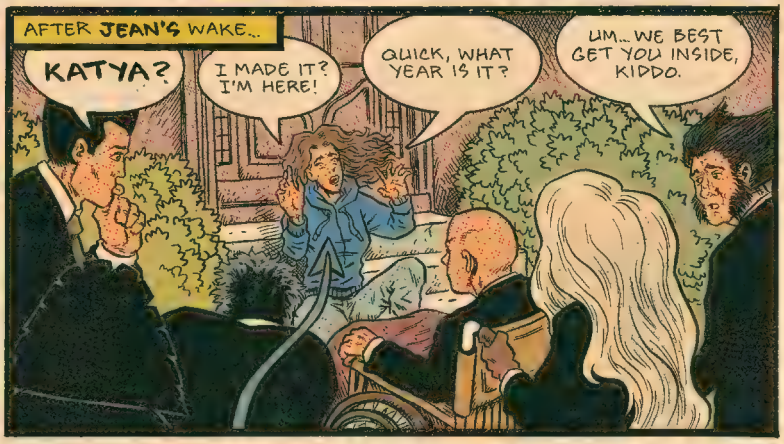
BEFORE WE LOST **CABLE**, HE TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING HE COULD ABOUT HOW THE PEOPLE OF HIS ERA CAN TRAVERSE TIME-SPACE.
WHAT WE HAVE HERE ARE TWO VECTORS FOR GOING BACK INTO THE PAST.

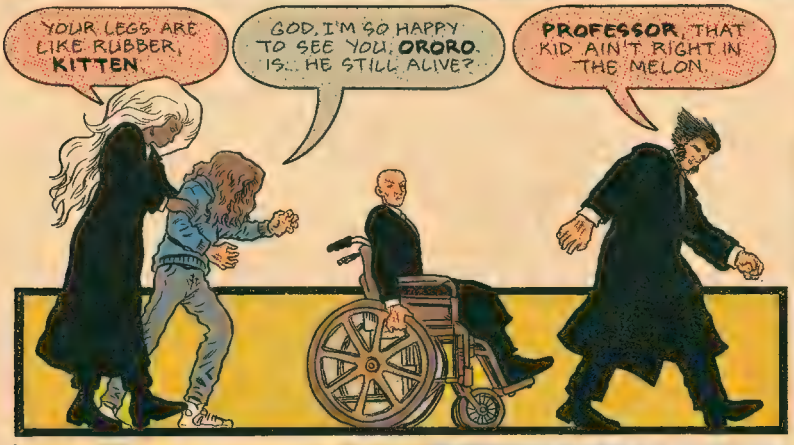

THE TIME TUNNEL HAS ENOUGH ENERGY TO SEND TWO PEOPLE BACK TO ANY ERA IN THEIR CURRENT PHYSICAL CONDITION.
TO AVOID THE POTENTIALLY CATASTROPHIC PARADOX OF MEETING ONE'S FORMER SELF, RACHEL SUMMERS AND BISHOP ARE CHOSEN TO TRAVEL BACK TO VARIOUS MOMENTS BEFORE EITHER WERE BORN TO TRY TO EFFECT POSITIVE CHANGE.
THE OTHER METHOD FOR REACHING INTO THE PAST IS THROUGH COGNITION. KATE PRYDE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO REVISITING HAPPIER TIMES... UNTIL FORGE TURNED THE HELMET ON.
HOPEFULLY WE CHOSE THE RIGHT DATES TO SEND THEM BACK.
COLD AS IT SOUNDS, WE HAVE THREE CHANCES OF BEING RIGHT.
AND WITH THOSE WORDS, THE LAST OF THE MUTANTS ARE SNUFFED OUT OF EXISTENCE FROM THIS TIMELINE.


JUST AFTER JEAN GREY'S FUNERAL, A NEW STUDENT ARRIVES AT THE LOCKED AND VACANT DOORSTEPS OF THE XAVIER SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS.
I'LL JUST WALK THROUGH THIS STUPID DOOR...

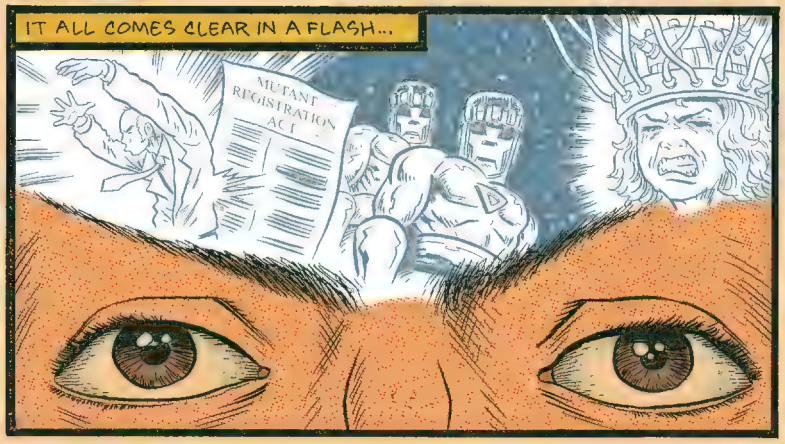

BEFORE TRANSPORTING KATE'S MIND BACK IN TIME, FORGE ASSURED HER THAT EVERYTHING HE BUILDS WORKS AS REQUIRED.

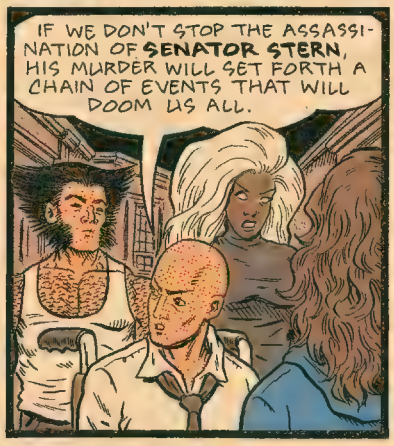

HE DIDN'T TELL PRYDE HOW PAINFUL IT WOULD BE ONCE SHE REACHES HER DESTINATION.

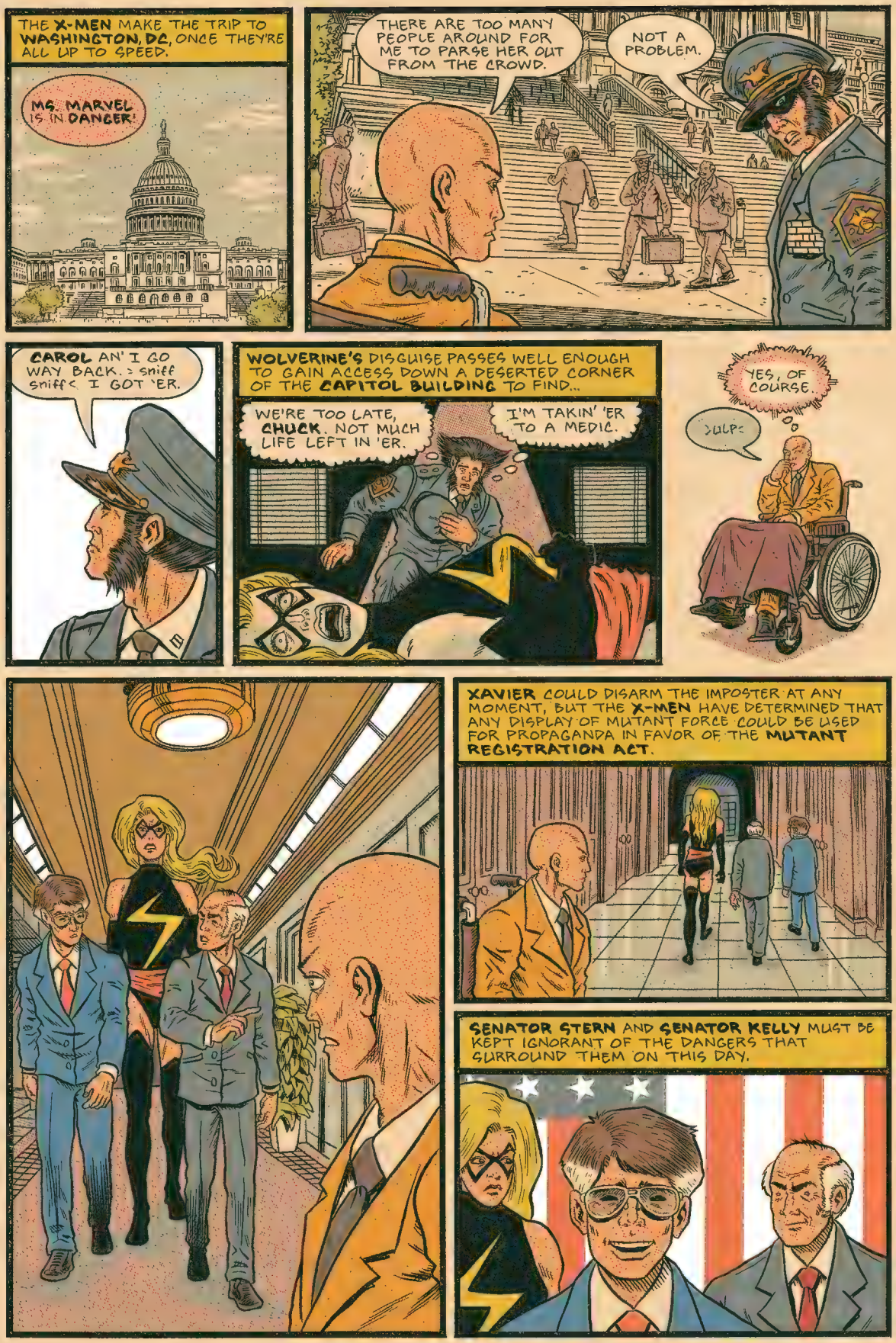

AFTER JEAN'S WAKE...
KATYA?
I MADE IT? I'M HERE!
QUICK, WHAT YEAR IS IT?
UM... WE BEST GET YOU INSIDE, KIDDO.

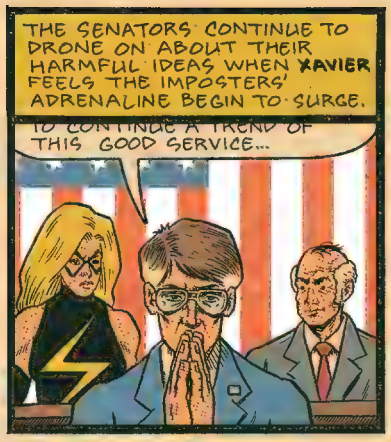

YOUR LEGS ARE LIKE RUBBER, KITTEN.
GOD, I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU. ORORO IS... HE STILL ALIVE?
PROFESSOR, THAT KID AIN'T RIGHT IN THE MELON.

KATHERINE, IT IS HARD TO GRASP ALL YOU'RE TELLING US. WITH YOUR PERMISSION, MAY I SEE WHAT YOUR MIND HAS TO REVEAL?
I INSIST, CHARLES.

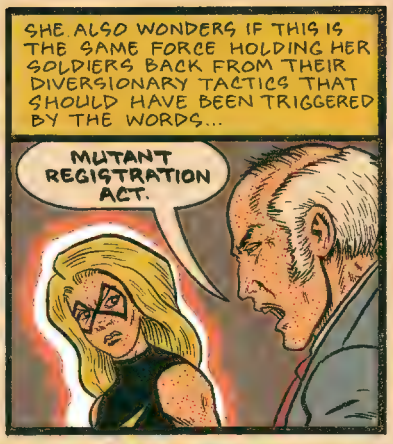

IT ALL COMES CLEAR IN A FLASH...
MUTANT REGISTRATION ACT

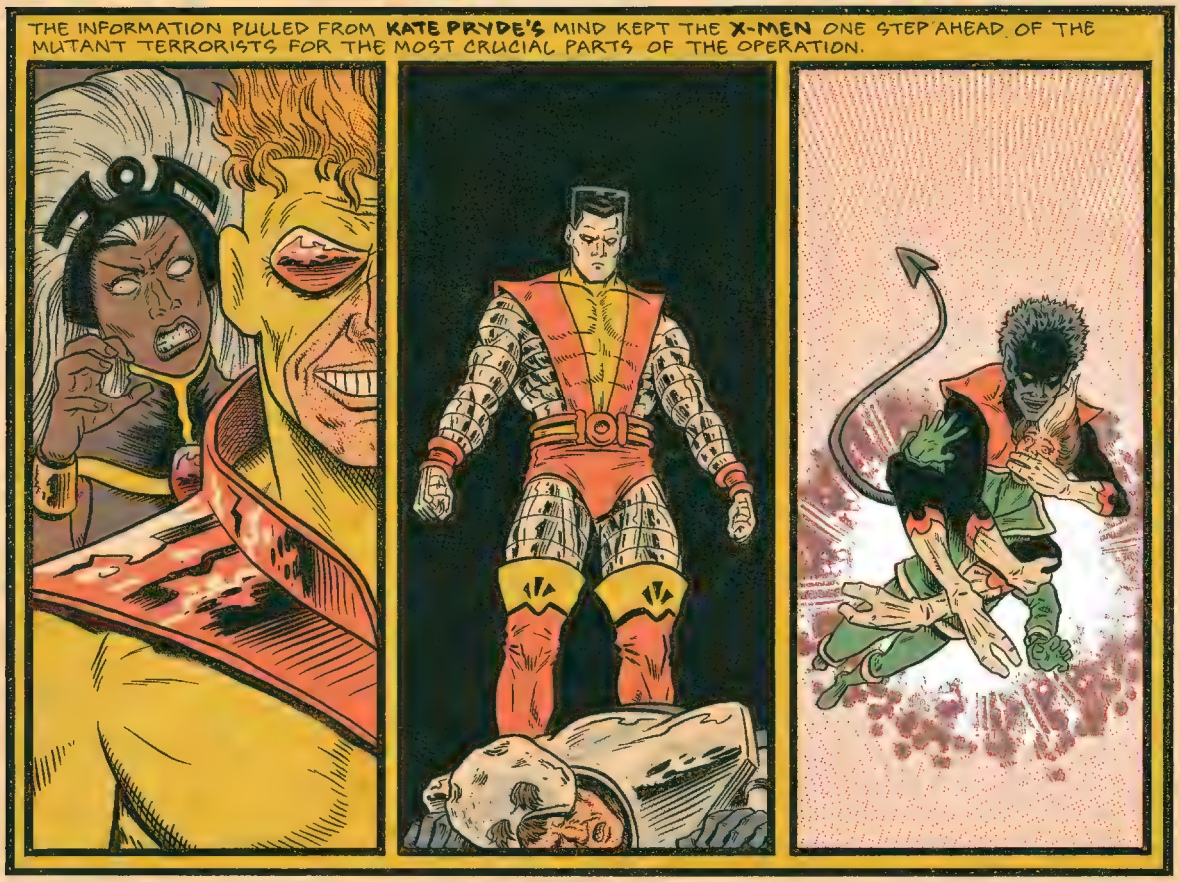

IF WE DON'T STOP THE ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR STERN, HIS MURDER WILL SET FORTH A CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT WILL DOOM US ALL.

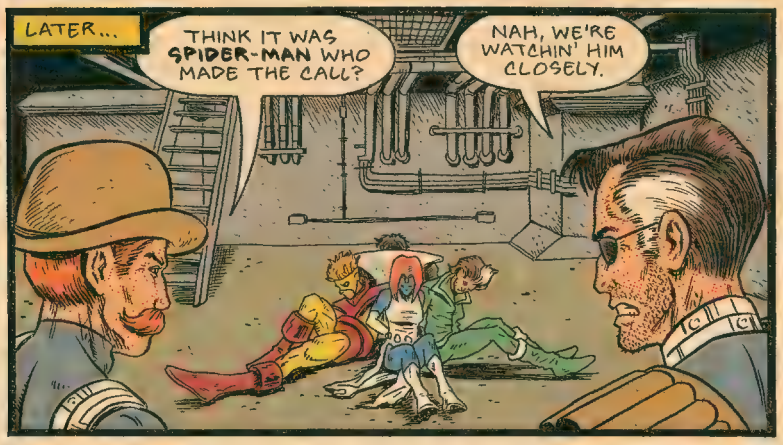

THE X-MEN MAKE THE TRIP TO WASHINGTON, DC, ONCE THEY'RE ALL UP TO SPEED.
MS. MARVEL IS IN DANGER!
THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE AROUND FOR ME TO PARSE HER OUT FROM THE CROWD.
NOT A PROBLEM.
CAROL AN' I GO WAY BACK. :sniff sniff< I GOT 'ER.
WOLVERINE'S DISGUISE PASSES WELL ENOUGH TO GAIN ACCESS DOWN A DESERTED CORNER OF THE CAPITOL BUILDING TO FIND...
WE'RE TOO LATE, CHUCK. NOT MUCH LIFE LEFT IN 'ER.
I'M TAKIN' 'ER TO A MEDIC.
YES, OF COURSE.
>ULP<
XAVIER COULD DISARM THE IMPOSTER AT ANY MOMENT, BUT THE X-MEN HAVE DETERMINED THAT ANY DISPLAY OF MUTANT FORCE COULD BE USED FOR PROPAGANDA IN FAVOR OF THE MUTANT REGISTRATION ACT.
SENATOR STERN AND SENATOR KELLY MUST BE KEPT IGNORANT OF THE DANGERS THAT SURROUND THEM ON THIS DAY.

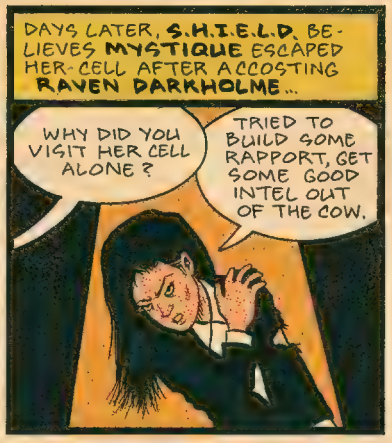

THE SENATORS CONTINUE TO DRONE ON ABOUT THEIR HARMFUL IDEAS WHEN **XAVIER** FEELS THE IMPOSTERS' ADRENALINE BEGIN TO SURGE.
TO CONTINUE A TREND OF THIS GOOD SERVICE...

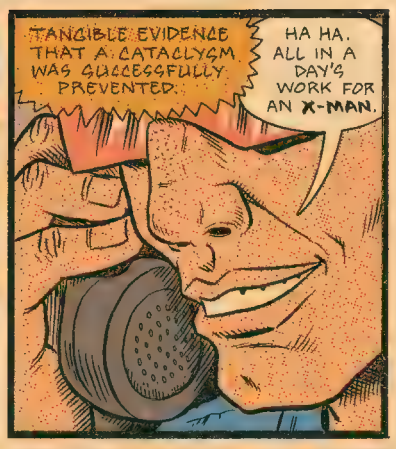
THE FAUX **MS. MARVEL** FEELS SOMEONE PREVENTING HER FROM PULLING OUT THE PISTOL.

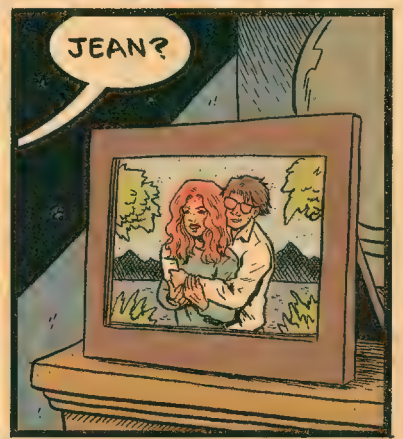

SHE ALSO WONDERS IF THIS IS THE SAME FORCE HOLDING HER SOLDIERS BACK FROM THEIR DIVERSIONARY TACTICS THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN TRIGGERED BY THE WORDS...
MUTANT REGISTRATION ACT.

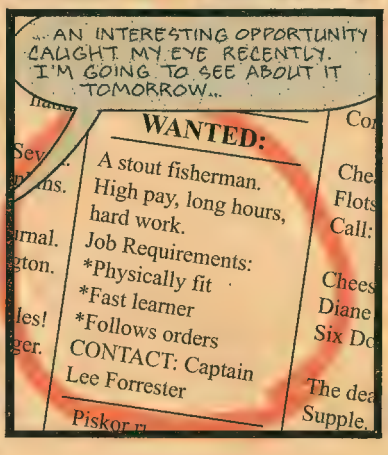

THE INFORMATION PULLED FROM **KATE PRYDE'S** MIND KEPT THE **X-MEN** ONE STEP AHEAD OF THE MUTANT TERRORISTS FOR THE MOST CRUCIAL PARTS OF THE OPERATION.

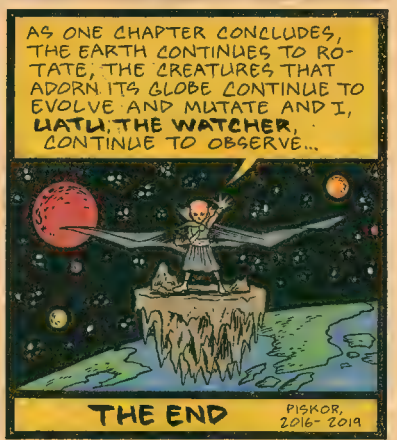

LATER...
THINK IT WAS **SPIDER-MAN** WHO MADE THE CALL?
NAH, WE'RE WATCHIN' HIM CLOSELY.


DAYS LATER, **S.H.I.E.L.D.** BELIEVES **MYSTIQUE** ESCAPED HER CELL AFTER ACCOSTING **RAVEN DARKHOLME**...
WHY DID YOU VISIT HER CELL ALONE?
TRIED TO BUILD SOME RAPPORT, GET SOME GOOD INTEL OUT OF THE COW.









... OR, **TO BE CONTINUED** IN **X-MEN** ISSUE #143, **MARCH** 1980

XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

For their service in shaping the first 30 years of X-MEN history to make this book possible.

ART ADAMS
NEAL ADAMS
DAN ADKINS
DIANA ALBERS
KARL ALTSTAETTER
BILL ANDERSON
BRENT ANDERSON
ROSS ANDRU
TERRY AUSTIN
DICK AYERS
MICHAEL BAIR
HILARY BARTA
BRET BLEVINS
PAT BLEVINS
JOHN BOLTON
BRETT BREEDING
JUNE BRIDGMAN
SOL BRODSKY
PAT BROSSEAU
BOB BROWN
ELIOT R. BROWN
RICH BUCKLER
BOB BUDIANSKY
LOIS BUHALIS
JOHN BUSCEMA
SAL BUSCEMA
JOHN BYRNE
JANINE CASEY
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FRANK CHIARAMONTE
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MIKE ESPOSITO
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DANNY FINGEROTH
GARY FRIEDRICH
SUZANNE GAFFNEY
KERRY GAMMILL
FRANK GIACOIA
PETRA GOLDBERG
STAN GOLDBERG
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ARCHIE GOODWIN
AL GORDON
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DAN GREEN
JACKSON GUICE
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PETER IRO
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KLAUS JANSON
GIL KANE
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STAN LEE
STEVE LEIALOHA
RICK LEONARDI
ROB LIEFELD
KEN LOPEZ
TOM MANDRAKE
KAREN MANTLO
BOB McLEOD
MIKE MIGNOLA
AL MILGROM
FRANK MILLER
FRANCOISE MOULY
PAUL NEARY
FABIAN NICIEZA
ANN NOCENTI
JIM NOVAK
KEVIN NOWLAN
GLYNIS OLIVER (WEIN)
TOM ORZECHOWSKI
TOM PALMER
RICK PARKER
BRUCE PATTERSON
GEORGE PEREZ
WHILCE PORTACIO
SUZANNE R.A. MILLER
PHIL RACHELSON
TOM RANEY
PAUL REINMAN
CLEM ROBBINS
TRINA ROBBINS
MIKE ROCKWITZ
JOHN ROMITA JR
JOHN ROMITA
JOE ROSAS
JOE ROSEN
SAM ROSEN
WERNER ROTH
GEORGE ROUSSOS
JOSEF RUBINSTEIN
TOMOKO SAITO
GASPAR SALADINO
JIM SALICRUP
PETER SANDERSON
CHRISTIE SCHEELE
PETRA SCOTESE
MARIE SEVERIN
BOB SHAREN
JIM SHERMAN
JIM SHOOTER
BILL SIENKIEWICZ
MARC SILVESTRI
ART SIMEK
JEAN SIMEK
LOUISE SIMONSON (JONES)
WALT SIMONSON
JOE SINNOTT
PAUL SMITH
JIM STERANKO
ROGER STERN
CHIC STONE
LARRY STROMAN
TOM SUTTON
JOHN TARTAGLIONE
ART THIBERT
ROY THOMAS
MARY TITUS
ALEX TOTH
HERB TRIMPE
GEORGE TUSKA
BRAD VANCATA
JOHN VERPOORTEN
RICARDO VILLAMONTE
TOM VINCENT
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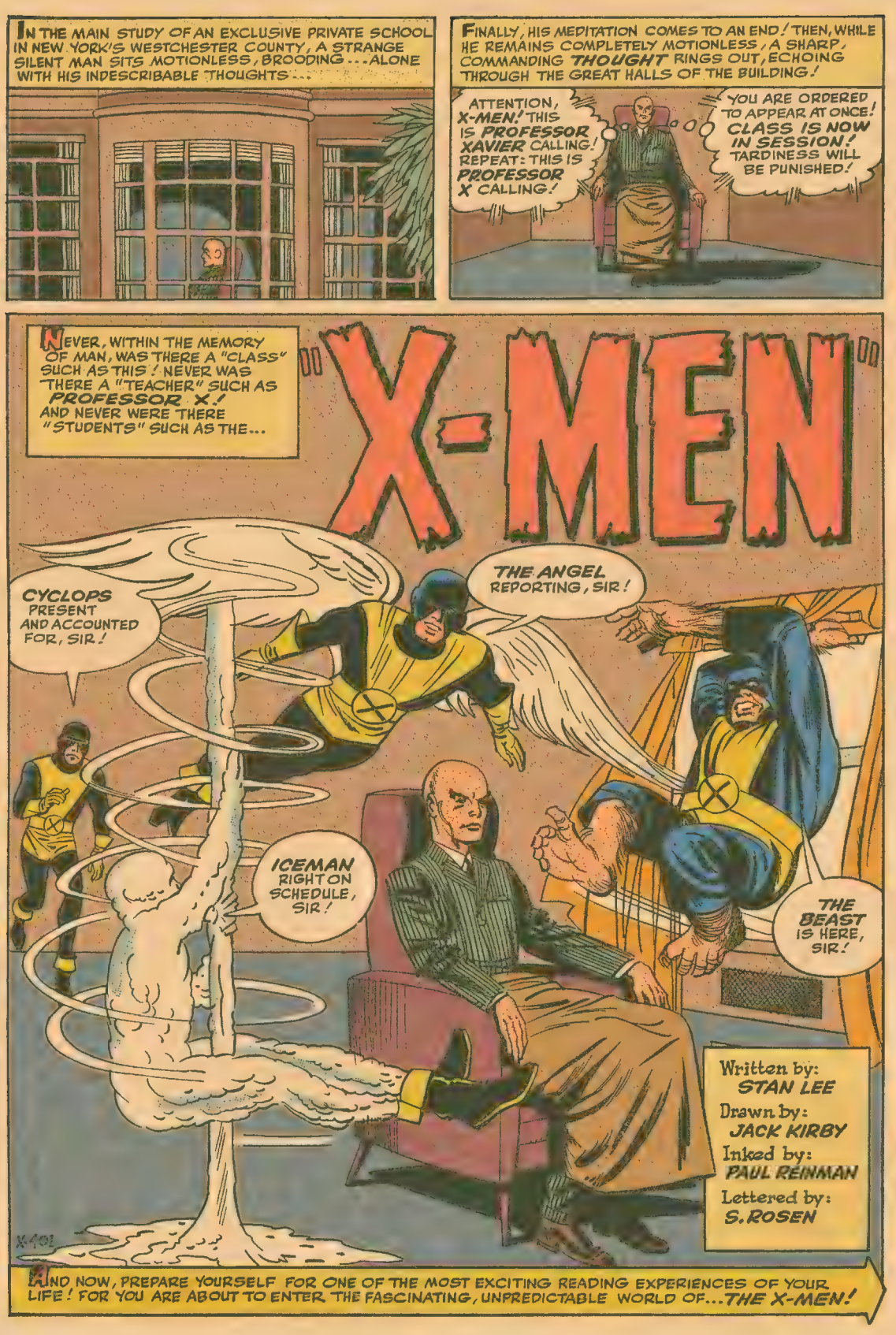
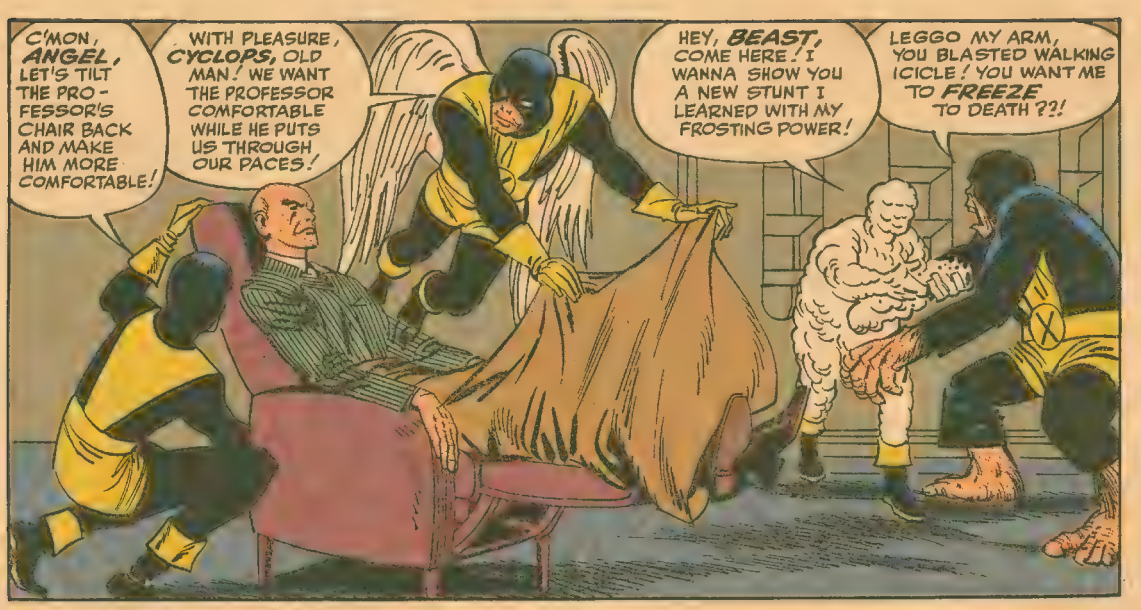
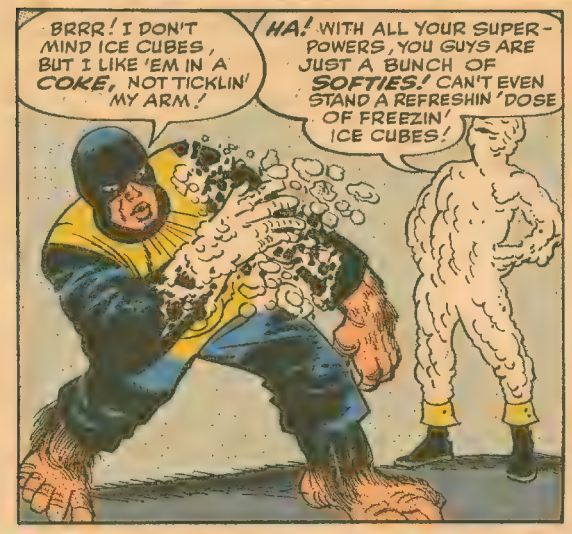
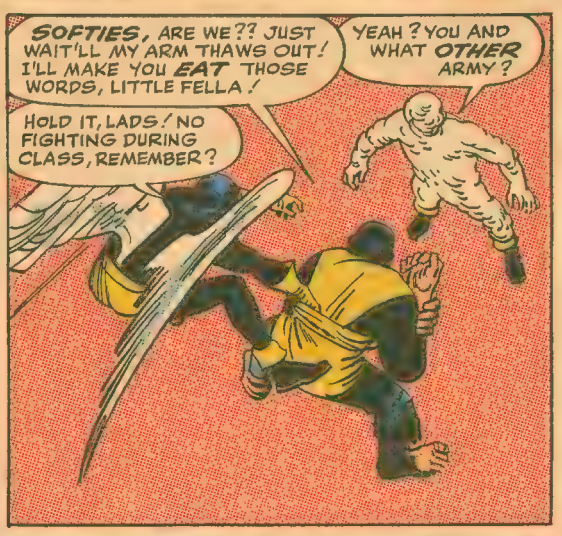
DON WARFIELD
IRVING WATANABE
LEN WEIN
BOB WHACEK
BONNIE WILFORD
KENT WILLIAMS
SCOTT WILLIAMS
AL WILLIAMSON
BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH
DENISE WOHL
MARV WOLFMAN
MICHELLE WOLFMAN
WALLACE WOOD
BILL WRAY
GREG WRIGHT
ANDY YANCHUS
RON ZALME

THE STRANGEST SUPER-HEROES OF ALL!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
1 SEPT.
IND.
the X-MEN
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢
IN THE SENSATIONAL FANTASTIC FOUR STYLE!
DON'T MISS THIS FABULOUS FIRST ISSUE!
X-MEN VERSUS MAGNETO EARTH'S MOST POWERFUL SUPER VILLAIN!!

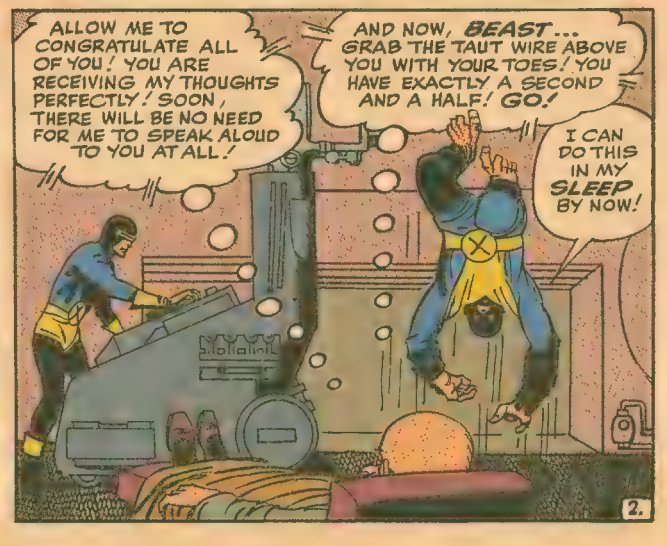

IN THE MAIN STUDY OF AN EXCLUSIVE PRIVATE SCHOOL IN NEW YORK'S WESTCHESTER COUNTY, A STRANGE SILENT MAN SITS MOTIONLESS, BROODING ... ALONE WITH HIS INDESCRIBABLE THOUGHTS ...
FINALLY, HIS MEDITATION COMES TO AN END! THEN, WHILE HE REMAINS COMPLETELY MOTIONLESS, A SHARP, COMMANDING THOUGHT RINGS OUT, ECHOING THROUGH THE GREAT HALLS OF THE BUILDING!
ATTENTION, X-MEN! THIS IS PROFESSOR XAVIER CALLING! REPEAT: THIS IS PROFESSOR X CALLING!
YOU ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR AT ONCE! CLASS IS NOW IN SESSION! TARDINESS WILL BE PUNISHED!
NEVER, WITHIN THE MEMORY OF MAN, WAS THERE A "CLASS" SUCH AS THIS! NEVER WAS THERE A "TEACHER" SUCH AS PROFESSOR X! AND NEVER WERE THERE "STUDENTS" SUCH AS THE...
"X-MEN"
CYCLOPS PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR, SIR!
THE ANGEL REPORTING, SIR!
ICEMAN RIGHT ON SCHEDULE, SIR!
THE BEAST IS HERE, SIR!
Written by: STAN LEE
Drawn by: JACK KIRBY
Inked by: PAUL REINMAN
Lettered by: S. ROSEN
AND NOW, PREPARE YOURSELF FOR ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING READING EXPERIENCES OF YOUR LIFE! FOR YOU ARE ABOUT TO ENTER THE FASCINATING, UNPREDICTABLE WORLD OF... THE X-MEN!

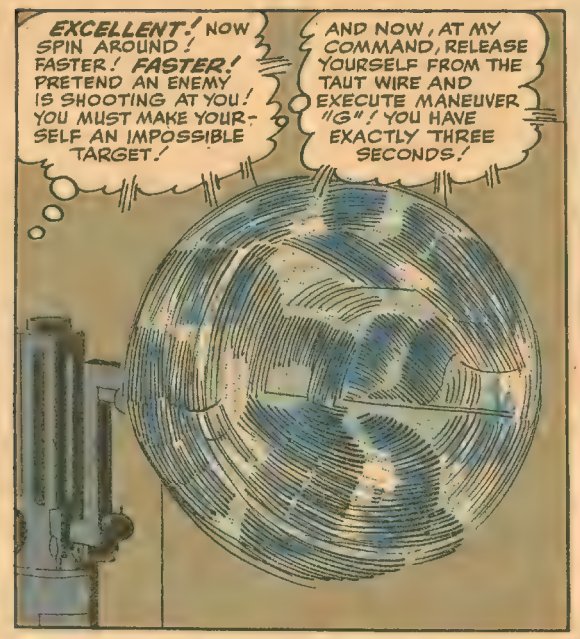

C'MON, ANGEL, LET'S TILT THE PROFESSOR'S CHAIR BACK AND MAKE HIM MORE COMFORTABLE!
WITH PLEASURE, CYCLOPS, OLD MAN! WE WANT THE PROFESSOR COMFORTABLE WHILE HE PUTS US THROUGH OUR PACES!
HEY, BEAST, COME HERE! I WANNA SHOW YOU A NEW STUNT I LEARNED WITH MY FROSTING POWER!
LEGGO MY ARM, YOU BLASTED WALKING ICICLE! YOU WANT ME TO FREEZE TO DEATH ??!

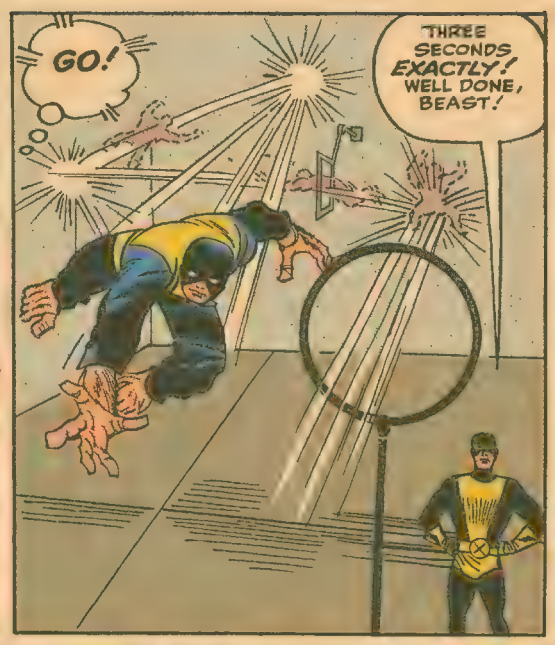

BRRR! I DON'T MIND ICE CUBES, BUT I LIKE 'EM IN A COKE, NOT TICKLIN' MY ARM!
HA! WITH ALL YOUR SUPER-POWERS, YOU GUYS ARE JUST A BUNCH OF SOFTIES! CAN'T EVEN STAND A REFRESHIN 'DOSE OF FREEZIN' ICE CUBES!


SOFTIES, ARE WE?? JUST WAIT'LL MY ARM THAWS OUT! I'LL MAKE YOU EAT THOSE WORDS, LITTLE FELLA!
YEAH? YOU AND WHAT OTHER ARMY?
HOLD IT, LADS! NO FIGHTING DURING CLASS, REMEMBER?

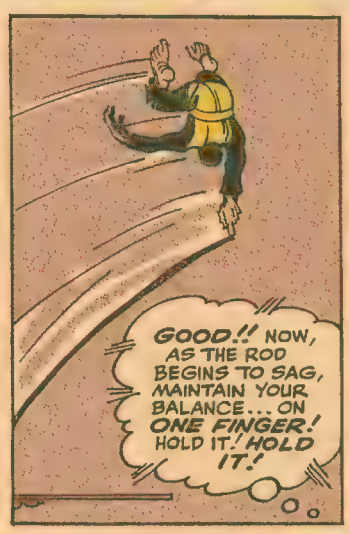
THANK YOU, ANGEL! AND NOW, IT IS TIME TO BEGIN YOUR LESSONS! THE BEAST WILL BE FIRST! PREPARE TO OPERATE HIS TRAINING MACHINE, CYCLOPS!
YES, SIR! PROFESSOR! EVERYTHING IS READY!

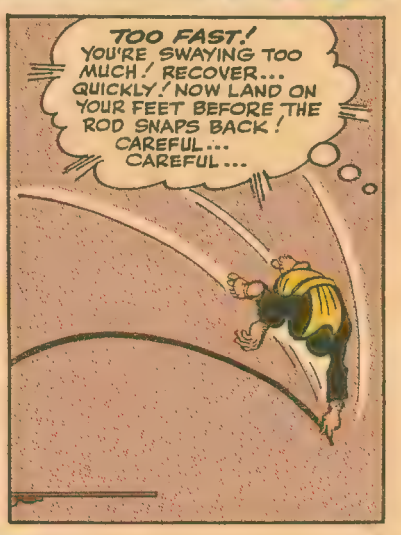

ALLOW ME TO CONGRATULATE ALL OF YOU! YOU ARE RECEIVING MY THOUGHTS PERFECTLY! SOON, THERE WILL BE NO NEED FOR ME TO SPEAK ALOUD TO YOU AT ALL!
AND NOW, BEAST... GRAB THE TAUT WIRE ABOVE YOU WITH YOUR TOES! YOU HAVE EXACTLY A SECOND AND A HALF! GO!
I CAN DO THIS IN MY SLEEP BY NOW!

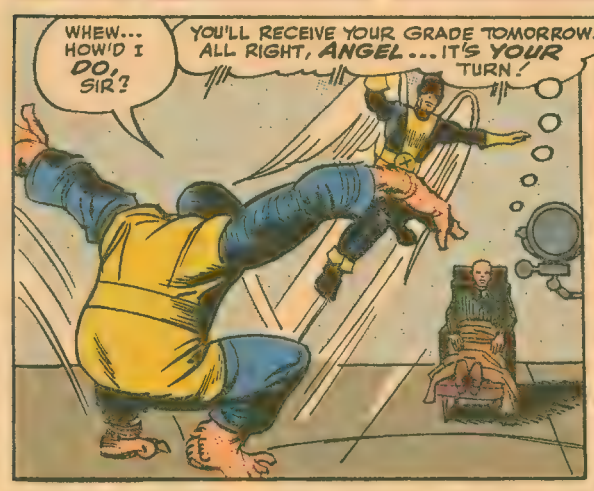

EXCELLENT! NOW SPIN AROUND! FASTER! FASTER! PRETEND AN ENEMY IS SHOOTING AT YOU! YOU MUST MAKE YOURSELF AN IMPOSSIBLE TARGET!
AND NOW, AT MY COMMAND, RELEASE YOURSELF FROM THE TAUT WIRE AND EXECUTE MANEUVER "G"! YOU HAVE EXACTLY THREE SECONDS!

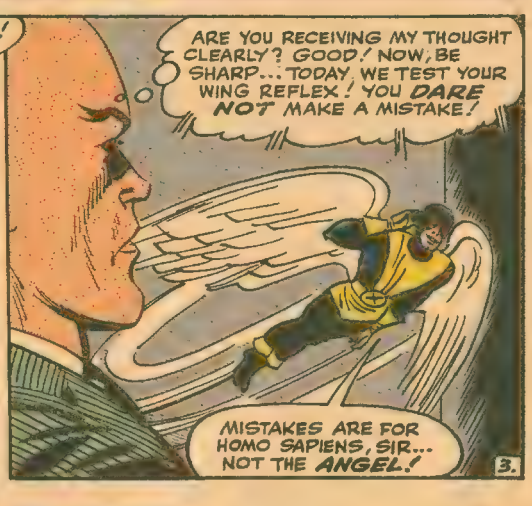

GO!
THREE SECONDS EXACTLY! WELL DONE, BEAST!

NOW FOR YOUR BALANCE DRILL! STEADY... STEADY! SLACKEN THE TENSION, CYCLOPS!

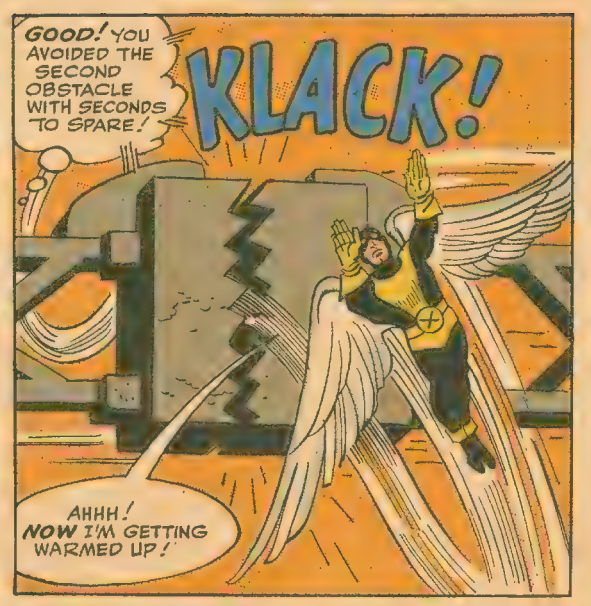

GOOD!! NOW, AS THE ROD BEGINS TO SAG, MAINTAIN YOUR BALANCE... ON ONE FINGER! HOLD IT! HOLD IT!

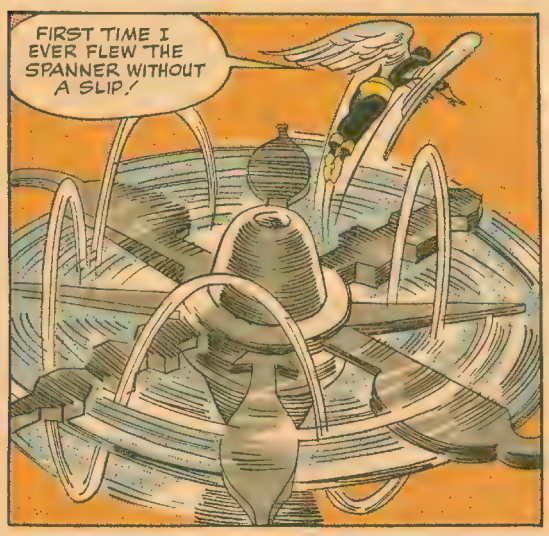

TOO FAST! YOU'RE SWAYING TOO MUCH! RECOVER... QUICKLY! NOW LAND ON YOUR FEET BEFORE THE ROD SNAPS BACK! CAREFUL... CAREFUL...

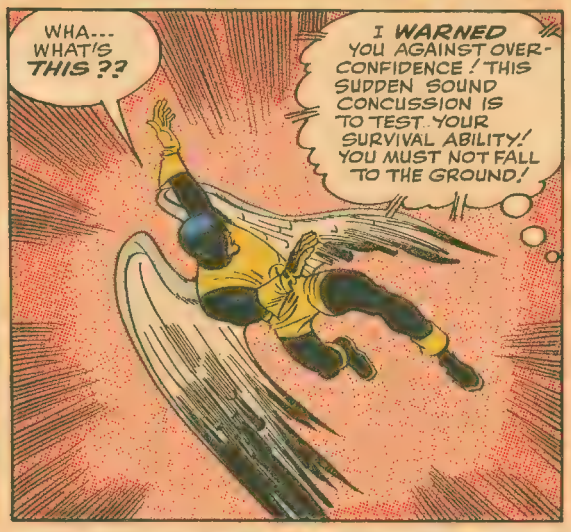

WHEW... HOW'D I DO, SIR?
YOU'LL RECEIVE YOUR GRADE TOMORROW! ALL RIGHT, ANGEL... IT'S YOUR TURN!

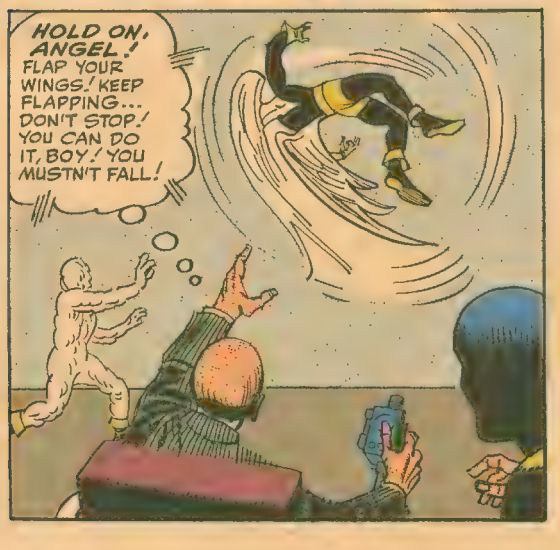

ARE YOU RECEIVING MY THOUGHT CLEARLY? GOOD! NOW, BE SHARP... TODAY, WE TEST YOUR WING REFLEX! YOU DARE NOT MAKE A MISTAKE!
MISTAKES ARE FOR HOMO SAPIENS, SIR... NOT THE ANGEL!

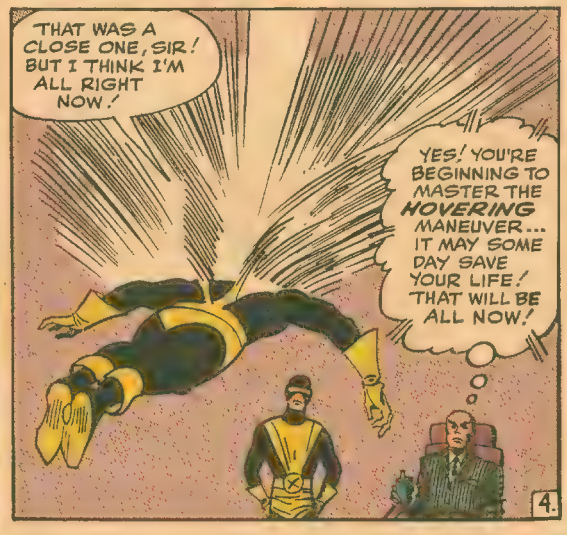
DON'T BE OVERCONFIDENT, ANGEL! YOU ALMOST SINGED YOUR WING ON THAT UNEXPECTED FLAME JET!
SSSS!
YOU'RE RIGHT, SIR! I'LL DO BETTER NEXT TIME!


GOOD! YOU AVOIDED THE SECOND OBSTACLE WITH SECONDS TO SPARE!
KLACK!
AHHH! NOW I'M GETTING WARMED UP!

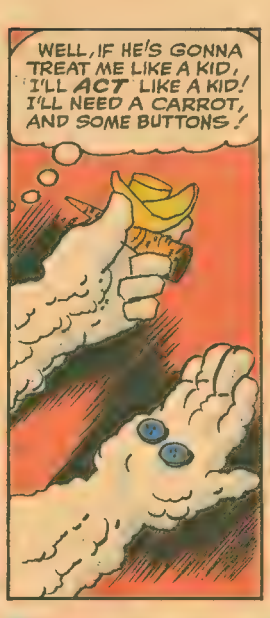

FIRST TIME I EVER FLEW THE SPANNER WITHOUT A SLIP!


WHA... WHAT'S THIS ??
I WARNED YOU AGAINST OVER-CONFIDENCE! THIS SUDDEN SOUND CONCUSSION IS TO TEST YOUR SURVIVAL ABILITY! YOU MUST NOT FALL TO THE GROUND!


HOLD ON, ANGEL! FLAP YOUR WINGS! KEEP FLAPPING... DON'T STOP! YOU CAN DO IT, BOY! YOU MUSTN'T FALL!


THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE, SIR! BUT I THINK I'M ALL RIGHT NOW!
YES! YOU'RE BEGINNING TO MASTER THE HOVERING MANEUVER... IT MAY SOME DAY SAVE YOUR LIFE! THAT WILL BE ALL NOW!

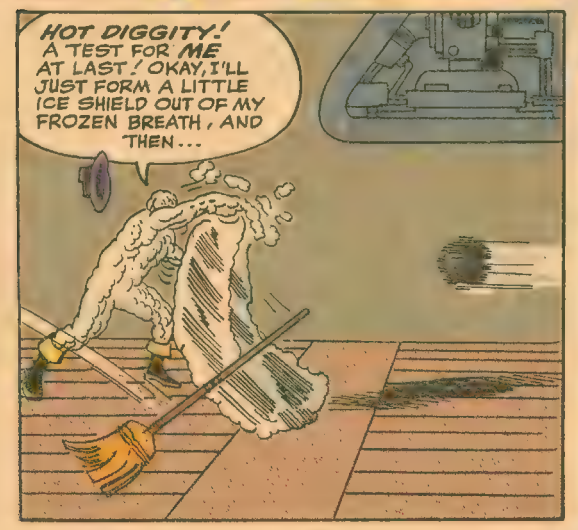
PROFESSOR, WHEN ARE YOU GONNA STOP TAKING IT EASY WITH ME, JUST BECAUSE I'M A COUPLE YEARS YOUNGER THAN THE OTHERS?? HOW AM I EVER GONNA GRADUATE AT THIS RATE?
SOME THINGS CANNOT BE RUSHED, ICEMAN! YOU MAY HAVE FIVE MINUTES OF FREE PLAY, DOING WHAT YOU WISH!

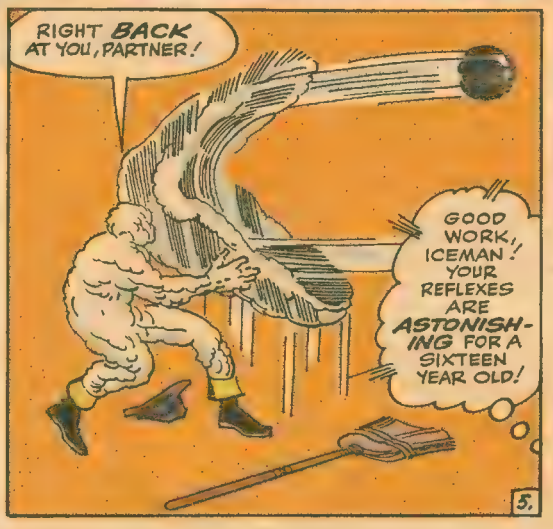

WELL, IF HE'S GONNA TREAT ME LIKE A KID, I'LL ACT LIKE A KID! I'LL NEED A CARROT, AND SOME BUTTONS!

AT LEAST I'LL GET A FEW LAUGHS OUT OF THIS!
ICEMAN FORGETS I CAN READ HIS THOUGHTS CLEARLY! BEAST, STAND READY! WE WILL TEST HIS REFLEXES WITHIN TEN SECONDS!

TA TA TA TAAAA! LOOK AT ME... I'M A SNOWMAN!
I'M GONNA GO STAND ON SOMEONE'S LAWN IF I DON'T GET SOMETHING TO DO AROUND HERE PRETTY SOON!

HE IS COMPLETELY OFF-GUARD! NOW, BEAST! HURL THAT BALL!
WATCH YOURSELF, ICEMAN! THIS THING IS NO SOAP BUBBLE!


HOT DIGGITY! A TEST FOR ME AT LAST! OKAY, I'LL JUST FORM A LITTLE ICE SHIELD OUT OF MY FROZEN BREATH, AND THEN...

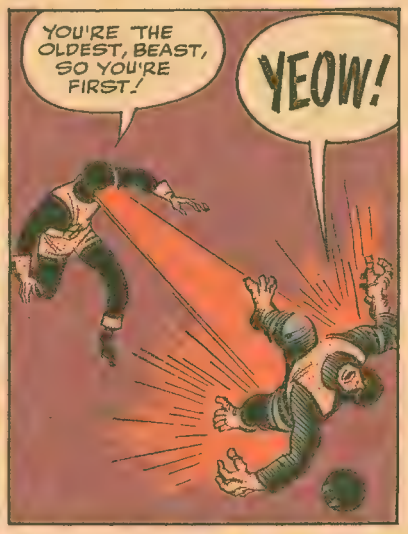

RIGHT BACK AT YOU, PARTNER!
GOOD WORK, ICEMAN! YOUR REFLEXES ARE ASTONISHING FOR A SIXTEEN YEAR OLD!

RIGHT IN THE OL' POCKET, KID! HEY, MAYBE WE'LL CHALLENGE THE HARLEM GLOBE-TROTTERS SOME DAY, EH?
SILENCE, BEAST! THE LESSON IS NOT YET OVER! CYCLOPS IS STILL TO BE TESTED!

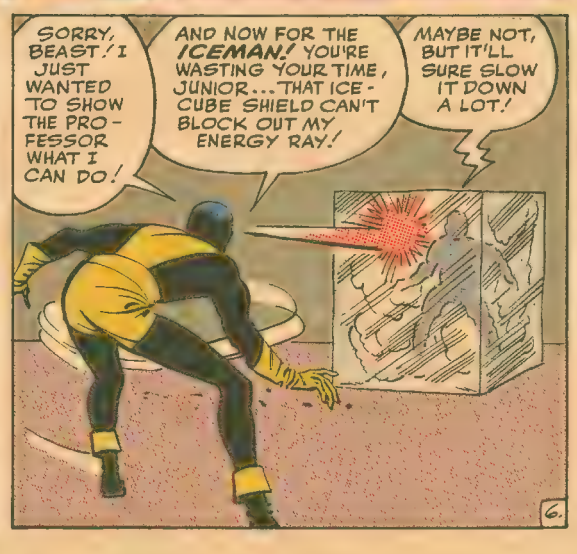
LOOK, YOU TWO CLOWNS... BE MORE CAREFUL NEXT TIME! THAT BOWLING BALL JUST MISSED THE PROFESSOR BY A WHISKER! THAT KIND OF HORSEPLAY ISN'T FUNNY!
QUIT GRANDSTANDIN', CYCLOPS! WE KNOW WHAT WE WERE DOIN'! AND THE PROF KNOWS WE DON'T WANT HIM TO GET HURT ANY MORE THAN YOU DO!

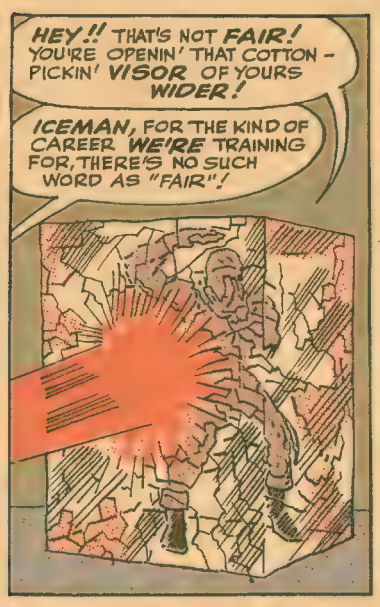
CYCLOPS! ATTENTION!! THIS IS YOUR TEST! ASSUME THE BEAST AND ICEMAN ARE YOUR ENEMIES! PUT THEM OUT OF ACTION WITHOUT CAUSING SERIOUS INJURY!
AS YOU SAY, SIR!

SLOWLY, SILENTLY, CYCLOPS ADJUSTS THE SMALL LEVER AT THE SIDE OF HIS HEAD-SHIELD! AND, AS HE DOES SO, HIS EYE VISOR OPENS WIDER AND WIDER... UNTIL...

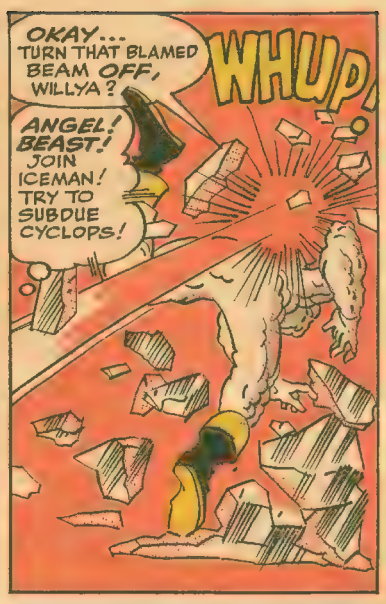

YOU'RE THE OLDEST, BEAST, SO YOU'RE FIRST!
YEOW!

HEY, TURN DOWN THAT BLASTED VISOR OF YOURS, WILLYA ??! YOU ALMOST KNOCKED ME CLEAN THROUGH THE WALL!!

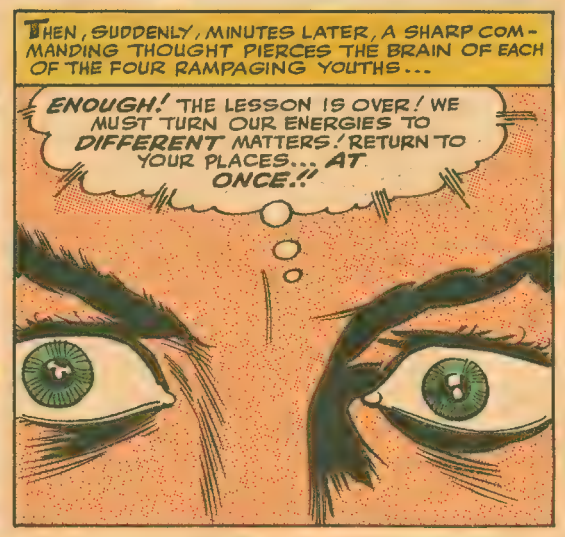

SORRY, BEAST! I JUST WANTED TO SHOW THE PROFESSOR WHAT I CAN DO!
AND NOW FOR THE ICEMAN! YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME, JUNIOR... THAT ICE-CUBE SHIELD CAN'T BLOCK OUT MY ENERGY RAY!
MAYBE NOT, BUT IT'LL SURE SLOW IT DOWN A LOT!


HEY!! THAT'S NOT FAIR! YOU'RE OPENIN' THAT COTTON-PICKIN' VISOR OF YOURS WIDER!
ICEMAN, FOR THE KIND OF CAREER WE'RE TRAINING FOR, THERE'S NO SUCH WORD AS "FAIR"!

NOW PROTECT YOURSELF! MY ENERGY BEAM IS SMASHING THROUGH!
THIS IS ONE DAY I SHOULDA STOOD IN BED!

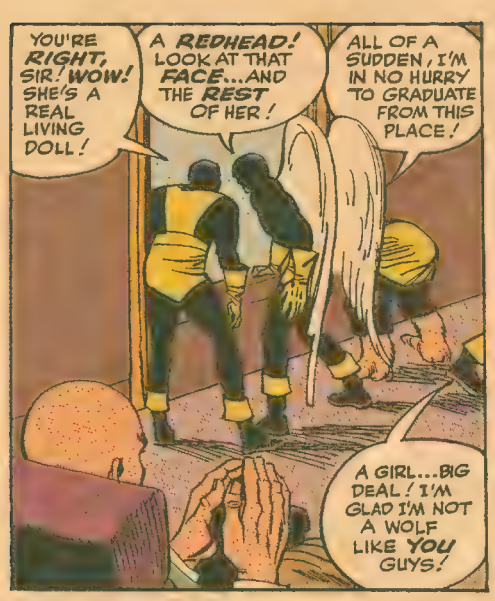

OKAY... TURN THAT BLAMED BEAM OFF, WILLYA?
WHUP!
ANGEL! BEAST! JOIN ICEMAN! TRY TO SUBDUE CYCLOPS!

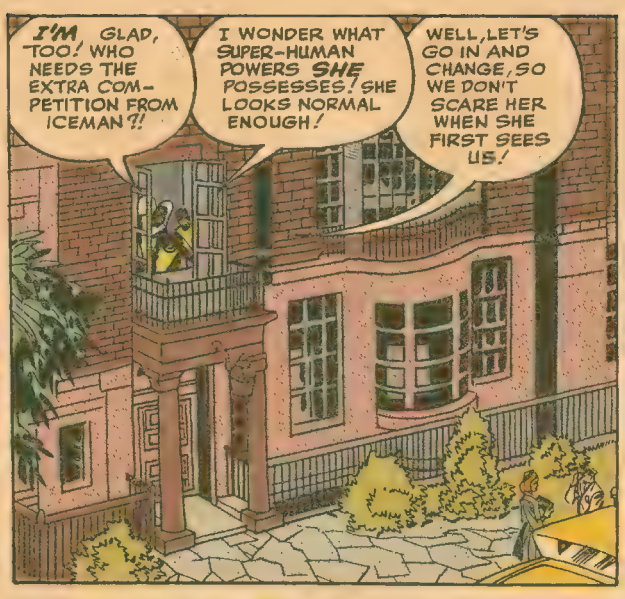
THANKS, PROF! I COULD USE A LITTLE HELP!
IT IS NOT FOR YOUR SAKE ALONE, LAD! A FEW MINUTES OF ROUGH-HOUSE IS GOOD FOR ALL OF YOU... TO HELP YOU LET OFF STEAM!

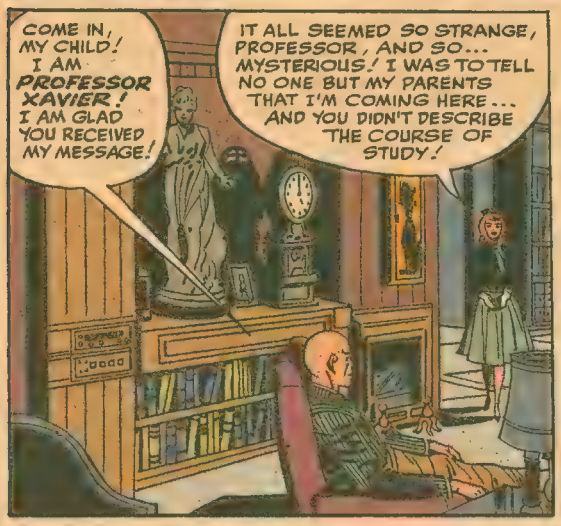

THEN, SUDDENLY, MINUTES LATER, A SHARP COMMANDING THOUGHT PIERCES THE BRAIN OF EACH OF THE FOUR RAMPAGING YOUTHS...
ENOUGH! THE LESSON IS OVER! WE MUST TURN OUR ENERGIES TO DIFFERENT MATTERS! RETURN TO YOUR PLACES... AT ONCE!!

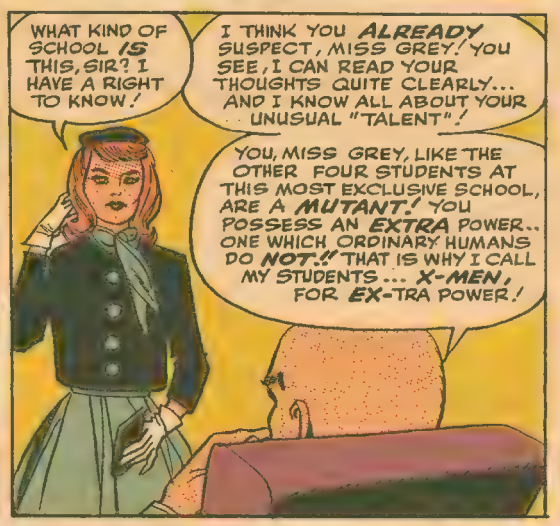
STUNNED BY THE FORCE AND EXPLOSIVE POWER OF PROFESSOR XAVIER'S MENTAL COMMAND, THE X-MEN RECOIL AND DRAW BACK, THEIR FRIENDLY FREE-FOR-ALL COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN!
WHEW! HE ALMOST BOWLED ME OVER WITH THAT ONE!
LET'S SIMMER DOWN AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT!

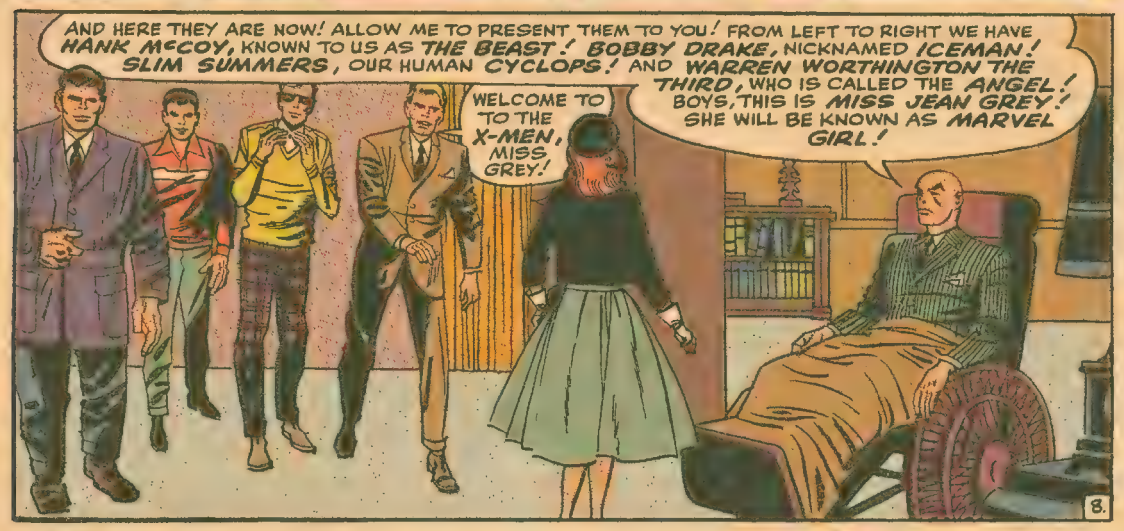
I CONGRATULATE YOU ALL! YOU HAVE MASTERED READING MY THOUGHTS PERFECTLY! AND NOW I SHALL RETURN TO NORMAL SPEECH COMMUNICATION!
YOU MAY BE INTERESTED TO LEARN THAT AT THIS VERY MOMENT I SENSE A TAXI APPROACHING OUR MAIN GATE! WITHIN THAT VEHICLE IS A NEW PUPIL... A MOST ATTRACTIVE YOUNG LADY!


YOU'RE RIGHT, SIR! WOW! SHE'S A REAL LIVING DOLL!
A REDHEAD! LOOK AT THAT FACE...AND THE REST OF HER!
ALL OF A SUDDEN, I'M IN NO HURRY TO GRADUATE FROM THIS PLACE!
A GIRL...BIG DEAL! I'M GLAD I'M NOT A WOLF LIKE YOU GUYS!


I'M GLAD, TOO! WHO NEEDS THE EXTRA COMPETITION FROM ICEMAN?!
I WONDER WHAT SUPER-HUMAN POWERS SHE POSSESSES! SHE LOOKS NORMAL ENOUGH!
WELL, LET'S GO IN AND CHANGE, SO WE DON'T SCARE HER WHEN SHE FIRST SEES US!

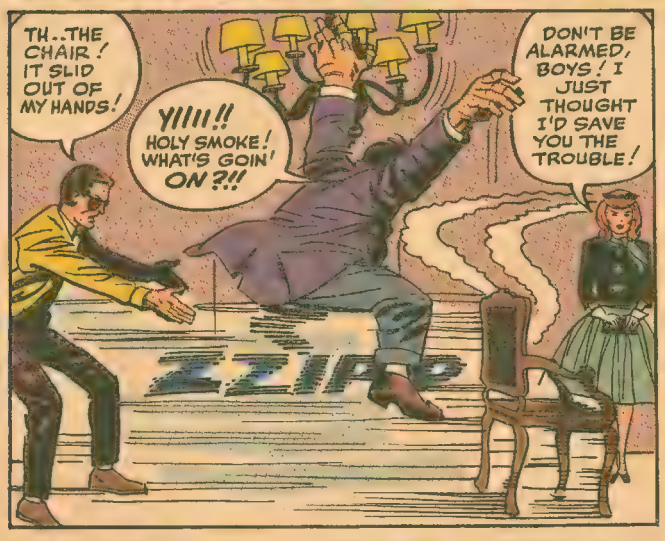

COME IN, MY CHILD! I AM PROFESSOR XAVIER! I AM GLAD YOU RECEIVED MY MESSAGE!
IT ALL SEEMED SO STRANGE, PROFESSOR, AND SO... MYSTERIOUS! I WAS TO TELL NO ONE BUT MY PARENTS THAT I'M COMING HERE... AND YOU DIDN'T DESCRIBE THE COURSE OF STUDY!

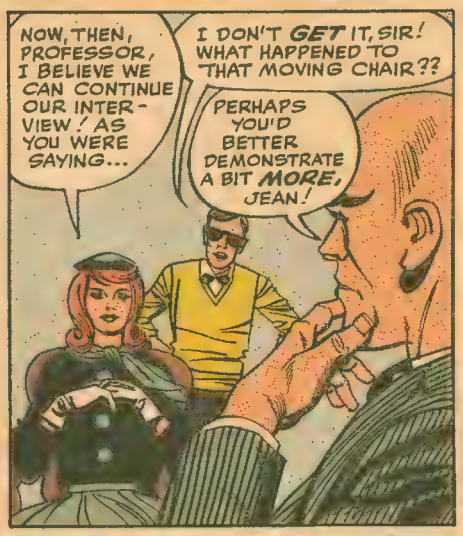

WHAT KIND OF SCHOOL IS THIS, SIR? I HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW!
I THINK YOU ALREADY SUSPECT, MISS GREY! YOU SEE, I CAN READ YOUR THOUGHTS QUITE CLEARLY... AND I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR UNUSUAL "TALENT"!
YOU, MISS GREY, LIKE THE OTHER FOUR STUDENTS AT THIS MOST EXCLUSIVE SCHOOL, ARE A MUTANT! YOU POSSESS AN EXTRA POWER.. ONE WHICH ORDINARY HUMANS DO NOT!! THAT IS WHY I CALL MY STUDENTS... X-MEN, FOR EX-TRA POWER!

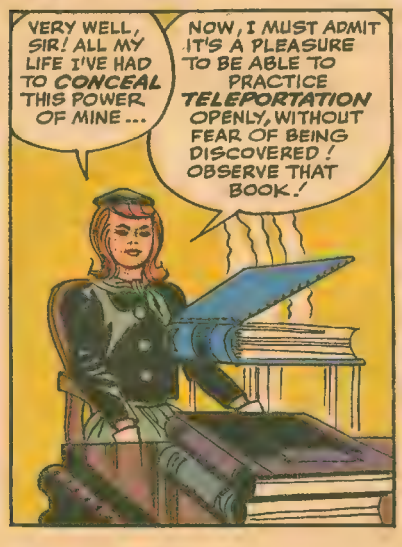

AND HERE THEY ARE NOW! ALLOW ME TO PRESENT THEM TO YOU! FROM LEFT TO RIGHT WE HAVE HANK McCOY, KNOWN TO US AS THE BEAST! BOBBY DRAKE, NICKNAMED ICEMAN! SLIM SUMMERS, OUR HUMAN CYCLOPS! AND WARREN WORTHINGTON THE THIRD, WHO IS CALLED THE ANGEL! BOYS, THIS IS MISS JEAN GREY! SHE WILL BE KNOWN AS MARVEL GIRL!
WELCOME TO TO THE X-MEN, MISS GREY!

HOW COME HE'S CALLING YOU MARVEL GIRL, MISS GREY? WHAT POWER DO YOU HAVE?
SHE HAS ONE VERY OBVIOUS POWER ...-THE POWER TO MAKE A MAN'S HEART BEAT FASTER!
Y'KNOW SOMETHING, WARREN, IF I HAD YOUR LINE, I'D SHOOT MYSELF!
YOU'LL LEARN MORE ABOUT ME, BOYS, IN TIME!

WELL, NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT! C'MON, SLIM, BRING THE LITTLE LADY A CHAIR!
HANK, I'D BRING HER THE WHOLE ROOM OF FURNITURE IF SHE ASKED ME!
THAT'S REALLY NOT NECESSARY, SLIM!

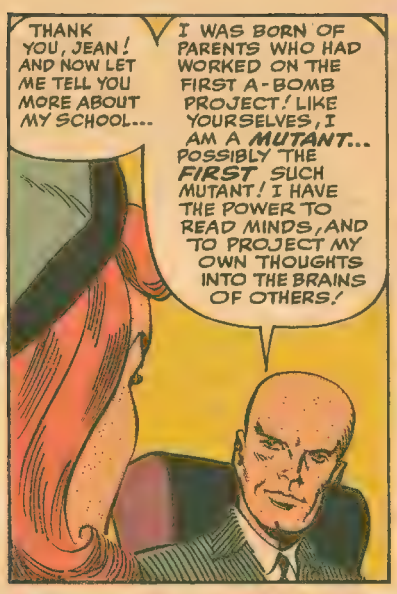

TH..THE CHAIR! IT SLID OUT OF MY HANDS!
YIIII!! HOLY SMOKE! WHAT'S GOIN' ON?!!
DON'T BE ALARMED, BOYS! I JUST THOUGHT I'D SAVE YOU THE TROUBLE!
ZZIP

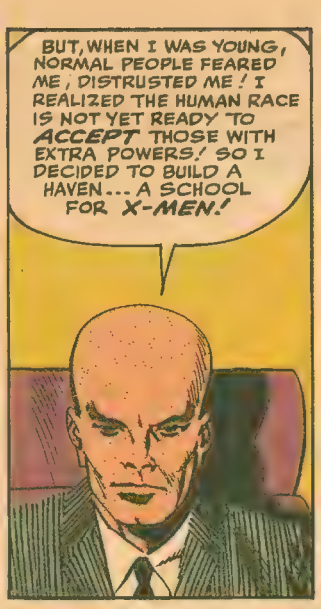

NOW, THEN, PROFESSOR, I BELIEVE WE CAN CONTINUE OUR INTER-VIEW! AS YOU WERE SAYING...
I DON'T GET IT, SIR! WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT MOVING CHAIR??
PERHAPS YOU'D BETTER DEMONSTRATE A BIT MORE, JEAN!

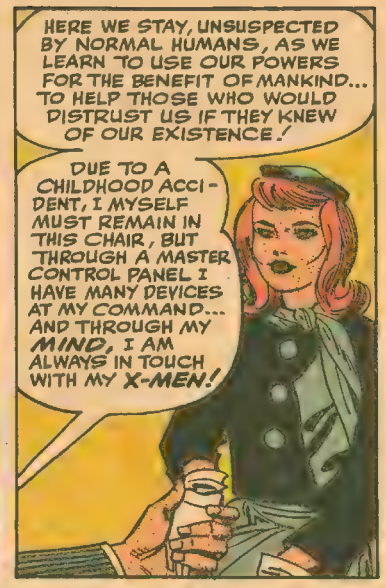

VERY WELL, SIR! ALL MY LIFE I'VE HAD TO CONCEAL THIS POWER OF MINE...
NOW, I MUST ADMIT IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE ABLE TO PRACTICE TELEPORTATION OPENLY, WITHOUT FEAR OF BEING DISCOVERED! OBSERVE THAT BOOK!

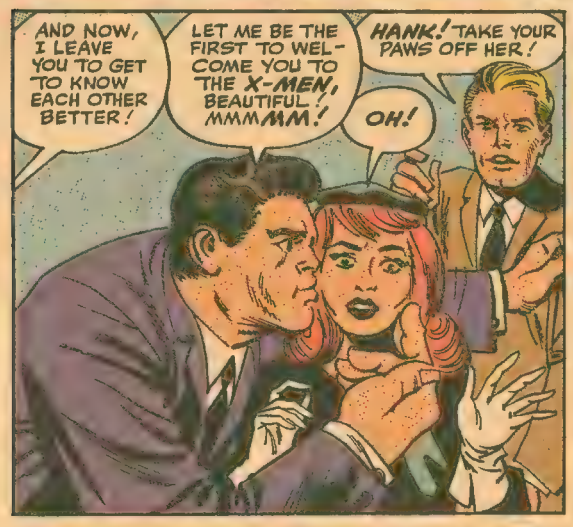
BY THE POWER OF THOUGHT, I AM ABLE TO MOVE OBJECTS AT WILL!

BUT IT GETS BORING AFTER A WHILE, SO I'LL RETURN THE BOOK...LIKE THIS!

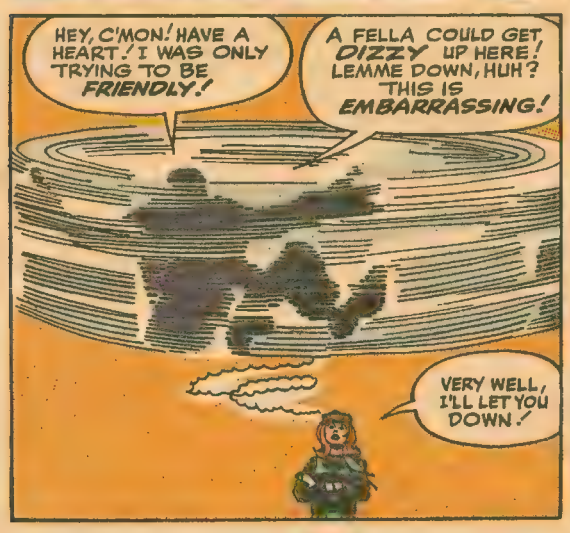

THANK YOU, JEAN! AND NOW LET ME TELL YOU MORE ABOUT MY SCHOOL...
I WAS BORN OF PARENTS WHO HAD WORKED ON THE FIRST A-BOMB PROJECT! LIKE YOURSELVES, I AM A MUTANT... POSSIBLY THE FIRST SUCH MUTANT! I HAVE THE POWER TO READ MINDS, AND TO PROJECT MY OWN THOUGHTS INTO THE BRAINS OF OTHERS!


BUT, WHEN I WAS YOUNG, NORMAL PEOPLE FEARED ME, DISTRUSTED ME! I REALIZED THE HUMAN RACE IS NOT YET READY TO ACCEPT THOSE WITH EXTRA POWERS! SO I DECIDED TO BUILD A HAVEN... A SCHOOL FOR X-MEN!

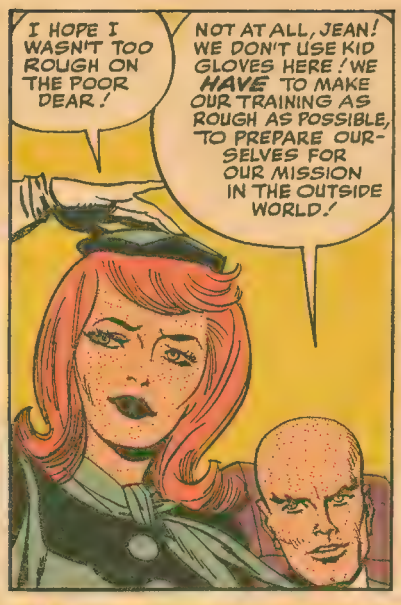

HERE WE STAY, UNSUSPECTED BY NORMAL HUMANS, AS WE LEARN TO USE OUR POWERS FOR THE BENEFIT OF MANKIND... TO HELP THOSE WHO WOULD DISTRUST US IF THEY KNEW OF OUR EXISTENCE!
DUE TO A CHILDHOOD ACCIDENT, I MYSELF MUST REMAIN IN THIS CHAIR, BUT THROUGH A MASTER CONTROL PANEL I HAVE MANY DEVICES AT MY COMMAND... AND THROUGH MY MIND, I AM ALWAYS IN TOUCH WITH MY X-MEN!


AND NOW, I LEAVE YOU TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER!
LET ME BE THE FIRST TO WELCOME YOU TO THE X-MEN, BEAUTIFUL! MMMMM!
HANK! TAKE YOUR PAWS OFF HER!
OH!

FOR THE LUVVA PETE!
OH, BOY! WHAT A GAL! I HOPE SHE KEEPS THAT BIG APE UP THERE FOREVER!
DON'T WORRY, WARREN! I'M NOT EXACTLY HELPLESS, AS YOU CAN SEE!


HEY, C'MON! HAVE A HEART! I WAS ONLY TRYING TO BE FRIENDLY!
A FELLA COULD GET DIZZY UP HERE! LEMME DOWN, HUH? THIS IS EMBARRASSING!
VERY WELL, I'LL LET YOU DOWN!

THERE! YOU'RE DOWN!
WHUMP!
OOOFF!!

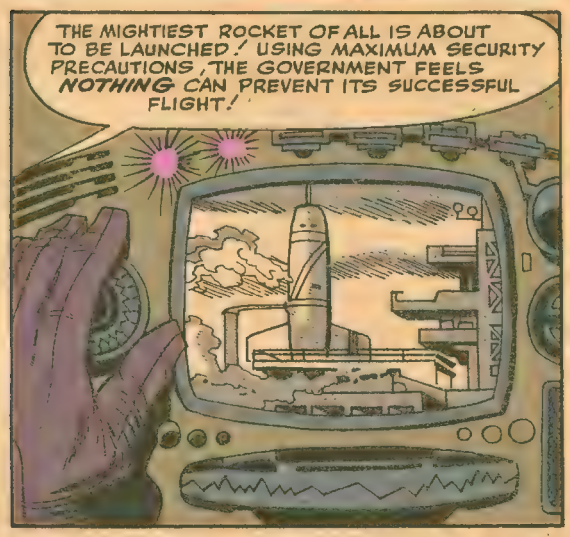

I HOPE I WASN'T TOO ROUGH ON THE POOR DEAR!
NOT AT ALL, JEAN! WE DON'T USE KID GLOVES HERE! WE HAVE TO MAKE OUR TRAINING AS ROUGH AS POSSIBLE, TO PREPARE OURSELVES FOR OUR MISSION IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD!

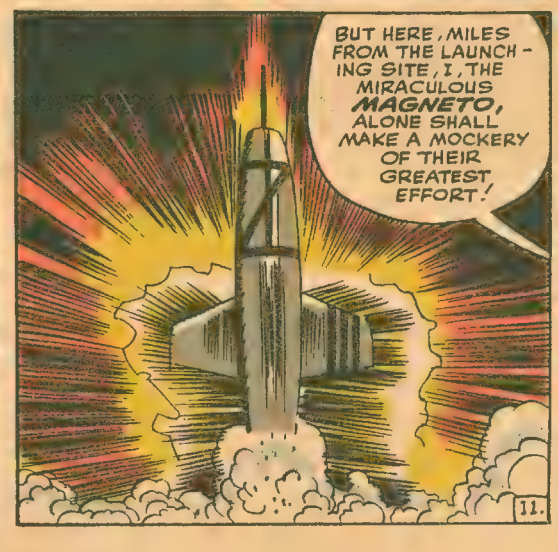
THAT'S WHAT I'VE WANTED TO ASK! JUST WHAT EXACTLY IS OUR REAL MISSION, SIR?
JEAN, THERE ARE MANY MUTANTS WALKING THE EARTH... AND MORE ARE BORN EACH YEAR!

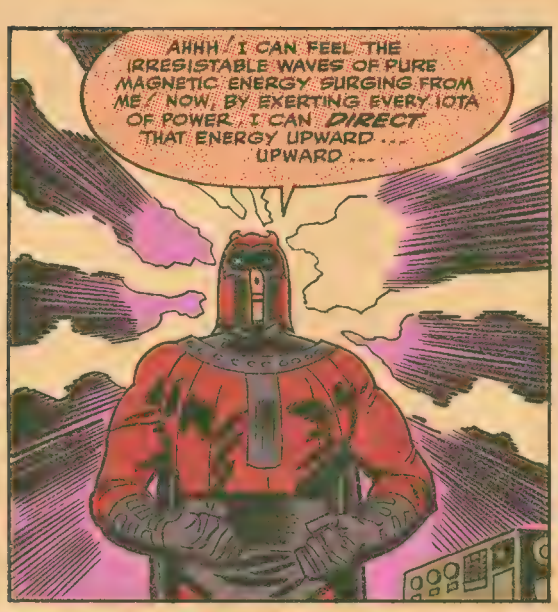
NOT ALL OF THEM WANT TO HELP MANKIND!... SOME HATE THE HUMAN RACE, AND WISH TO DESTROY IT! SOME FEEL THAT THE MUTANTS SHOULD BE THE REAL RULERS OF EARTH! IT IS OUR JOB TO PROTECT MANKIND FROM THOSE... FROM THE EVIL MUTANTS!

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, JUST SUCH A MUTANT PREPARES TO STRIKE... IN A SECRET LABORATORY NEAR CAPE CITADEL!
THE MOMENT IS AT HAND!
ALL MY MONTHS OF PREPARATION AND PLANNING SHALL NOW PAY OFF!

THE HUMAN RACE NO LONGER DESERVES DOMINION OVER THE PLANET EARTH! THE DAY OF THE MUTANTS IS UPON US!
THE FIRST PHASE OF MY PLAN SHALL BE TO SHOW MY POWER...TO MAKE HOMO SAPIENS BOW TO HOMO SUPERIOR!


THE MIGHTIEST ROCKET OF ALL IS ABOUT TO BE LAUNCHED! USING MAXIMUM SECURITY PRECAUTIONS, THE GOVERNMENT FEELS NOTHING CAN PREVENT ITS SUCCESSFUL FLIGHT!

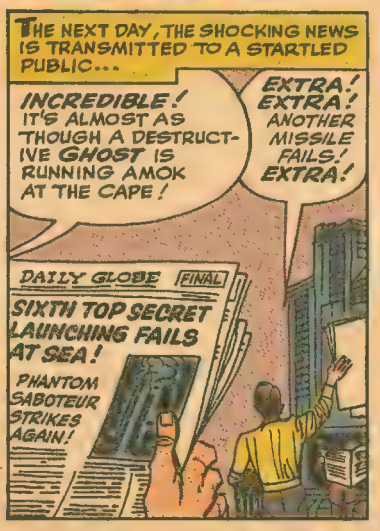

BUT HERE, MILES FROM THE LAUNCHING SITE, I, THE MIRACULOUS MAGNETO, ALONE SHALL MAKE A MOCKERY OF THEIR GREATEST EFFORT!


AHHH! I CAN FEEL THE IRRESISTABLE WAVES OF PURE MAGNETIC ENERGY SURGING FROM ME! NOW, BY EXERTING EVERY IOTA OF POWER, I CAN DIRECT THAT ENERGY UPWARD ... UPWARD ...

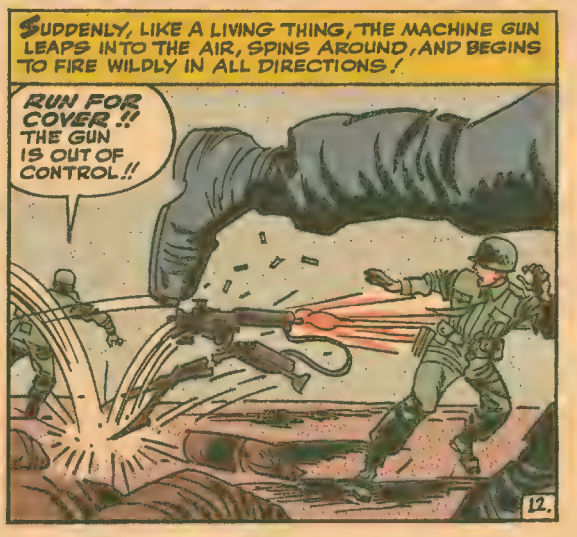
...UNTIL IT STRIKES THE SPEEDING MISSILE, CAUSING IT TO CHANGE DIRECTION ...TO FALTER...TO LOSE ALTITUDE!

...TO BE COMPLETELY, IRREVOCABLY DESTROYED!!

GENERAL, EVERY PHASE OF THE LAUNCHING WAS A-OKAY! THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE EXPLANATION... THE BIRD WAS TAMPERED WITH!
BUT HOW? EVEN A MICROBE COULDN'T HAVE PENETRATED OUR TOP SECRET SECURITY MEASURES!
NASA

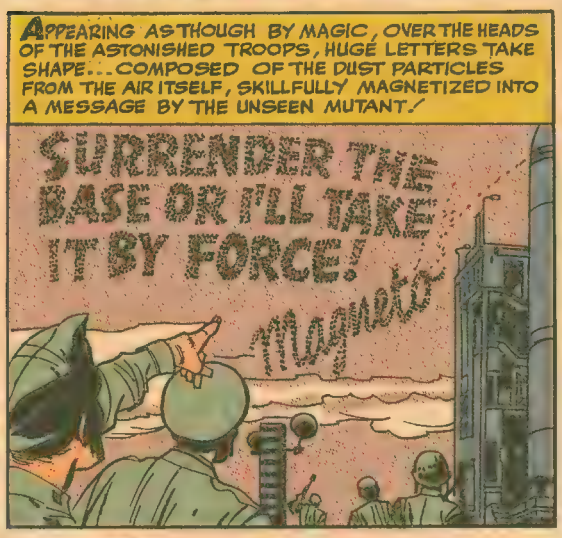

THE NEXT DAY, THE SHOCKING NEWS IS TRANSMITTED TO A STARTLED PUBLIC...
INCREDIBLE! IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH A DESTRUCTIVE GHOST IS RUNNING AMOK AT THE CAPE!
EXTRA! EXTRA! ANOTHER MISSILE FAILS! EXTRA!
DAILY GLOBE FINAL
SIXTH TOP SECRET LAUNCHING FAILS AT SEA!
PHANTOM SABOTEUR STRIKES AGAIN!

BUT THE WORST IS YET TO COME! LATER THAT AFTERNOON, AT THE HEAVILY GUARDED FENCE SURROUNDING THE LAUNCHING SITE...
KEEP THAT GUN STEADY! WHY IS IT QUIVERING THAT WAY?
W-WE'RE NOT DOIN' IT, SIR! IT..IT'S MOVIN' BY ITSELF!!

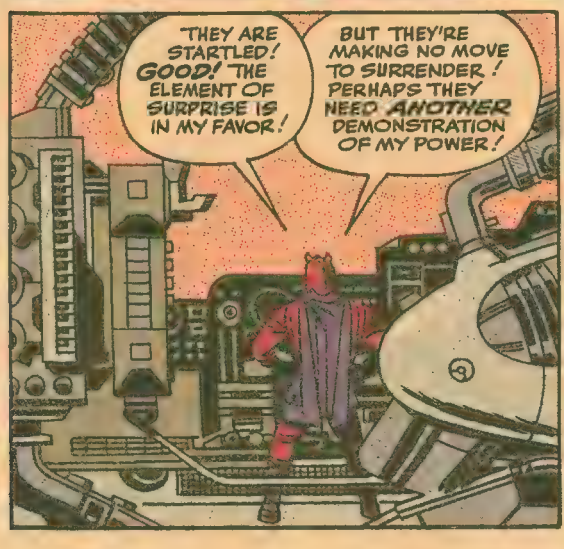

SUDDENLY, LIKE A LIVING THING, THE MACHINE GUN LEAPS INTO THE AIR, SPINS AROUND, AND BEGINS TO FIRE WILDLY IN ALL DIRECTIONS!
RUN FOR COVER!! THE GUN IS OUT OF CONTROL!!

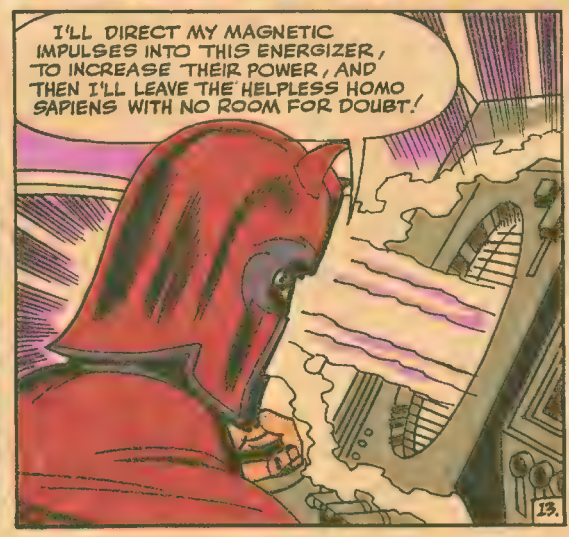
BUT, THE MACHINE GUN IS NOT THE ONLY THING THAT SUDDENLY, MADDENINGLY SEEM TO GO AMOK!
RUN! THE TANK IS MOVING BY ITSELF! GANGWAY!
IT..IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! AND YET...IT'S ACTING LIKE IT HAS A MIND OF ITS OWN! LIKE IT'S TRYING TO MENACE US!
SWISH!
CLANK!
CLANK!

WITHIN SECONDS, THE ENTIRE INSTALLATION IS ALARMED, AS EMERGENCY MEASURES ARE SWIFTLY BROUGHT INTO PLAY! AND THEN...
SOUND THE ALARM! CONDITION RED! ALERT THE PENTAGON!
GENERAL! LOOK! ABOVE US... IN THE SKY!


APPEARING AS THOUGH BY MAGIC, OVER THE HEADS OF THE ASTONISHED TROOPS, HUGE LETTERS TAKE SHAPE...COMPOSED OF THE DUST PARTICLES FROM THE AIR ITSELF, SKILLFULLY MAGNETIZED INTO A MESSAGE BY THE UNSEEN MUTANT!
SURRENDER THE BASE OR I'LL TAKE IT BY FORCE!
Magneto

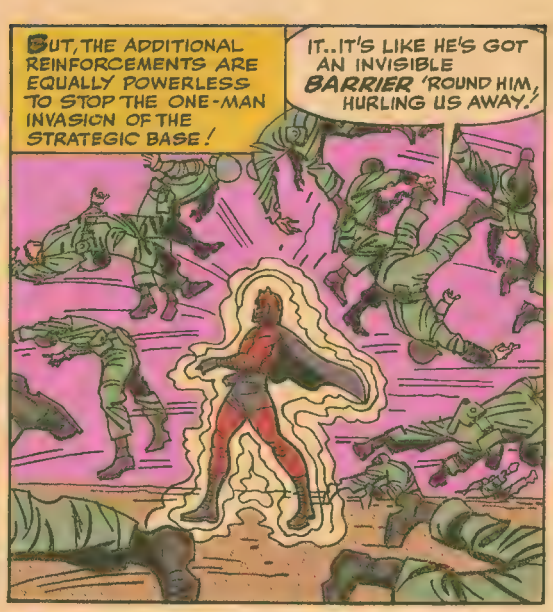
MAGNETO? WHO... WHAT IS MAGNETO??
GENERAL, WHAT DOES IT MEAN? IS SOMEONE PLAYING A GRIM PRANK?
YOU SAW THAT MACHINE GUN... THAT TANK... RAMPAGING OUT OF CONTROL! THIS IS NO JOKE, COLONEL!
US
US
NASA


THEY ARE STARTLED! GOOD! THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE IS IN MY FAVOR!
BUT THEY'RE MAKING NO MOVE TO SURRENDER! PERHAPS THEY NEED ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION OF MY POWER!


I'LL DIRECT MY MAGNETIC IMPULSES INTO THIS ENERGIZER, TO INCREASE THEIR POWER, AND THEN I'LL LEAVE THE HELPLESS HOMO SAPIENS WITH NO ROOM FOR DOUBT!

AN INSTANT LATER, INVISIBLE WAVES OF PURE, POWERFUL MAGNETIC ENERGY FLOW IRRESISTIBLY INTO AN UNDER-GROUND SILO WHERE ONE OF DEMOCRACY'S SILENT SENTINELS WAIT, AT THE READY!
AND THEN, MANIPULATED BY A SINISTER INTELLIGENCE, MANY HUNDREDS OF YARDS AWAY, THE MAGNETIC FORCE LIFTS THE SILO HEAD, ACTIVATING THE MIGHTY MISSILE!!
DEMONSTRATING A POWER WHICH THE HUMAN BRAIN IS ALMOST UNABLE TO COMPREHEND, MAGNETO CAUSES THE GRIM ROCKET TO FALL INTO THE SEA MANY MILES FROM SHORE, NEXT TO AN UNMANNED TARGET SHIP!
BUT STILL, THE THOUGHT OF SURRENDER NEVER CROSSES THE MINDS OF THE FIGHTING-MAD BASE PERSONNEL!
SERGEANT! ORDER THE GUARD DOUBLED AT EVERY MISSILE CONTROL CENTER! ANY ROCKET DEEMED A MENACE IS TO BE DESTROYED INSTANTLY!
SOME POWER BEYOND OUR UNDERSTANDING IS AFFECTING OUR WEAPONS! WE MUST FIND THIS MAGNETO!
GENERAL, LOOK! THAT COMMOTION AT THE MAIN GATE! IT SEEMS THAT HE HAS FOUND US FIRST!
HOLD IT, MAC! IF YOU'RE LOOKIN' FOR A MASQUERADE PARTY, YOU'VE COME TO THE WRONG PLACE! BEAT IT!
WELL SAID, GUARD! WHAT A PITY YOU HAVE NO POWER TO BACK UP SUCH IMPRESSIVE WORDS! YOUR PUNY WEAPONS CANNOT STOP ME!
MP
THEY CAN'T, EH? ONE LITTLE BURST OVER YOUR HEAD WILL SURELY CHANGE YOUR MIND!
I CAN'T EVEN LIFT MY GUN! FEELS LIKE IT WEIGHS A TON!
HEY! WHA- WHAT GIVES? THE GUN WON'T FIRE! THE TRIGGER SEEMS LOCKED IN PLACE!
MP
MP
MP
MP

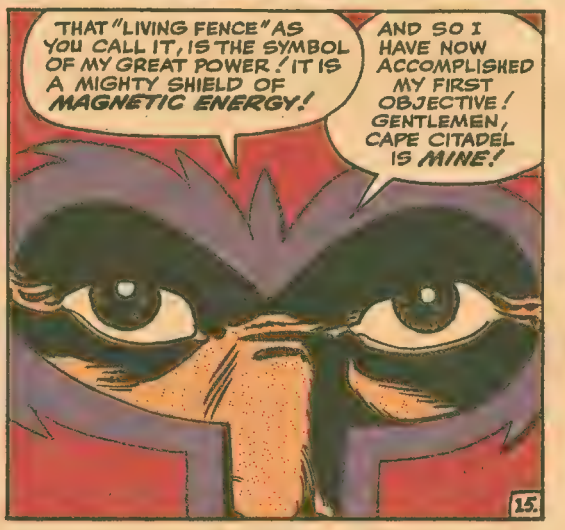
NOW I'LL MERELY ALTER MY MAGNETIC WAVES FROM POSITIVE TO NEGATIVE, SO THAT THEY WILL REPEL ANYTHING THAT COMES WITHIN RANGE! NOTHING CAN TOUCH ME AS I WALK TO MY OBJECTIVE!
WE CAN'T STOP HIM! CALL FOR RE-INFORCEMENTS!
I'M 'WAY AHEAD OF YA, PAL!
MP


BUT, THE ADDITIONAL REINFORCEMENTS ARE EQUALLY POWERLESS TO STOP THE ONE-MAN INVASION OF THE STRATEGIC BASE!
IT..IT'S LIKE HE'S GOT AN INVISIBLE BARRIER 'ROUND HIM, HURLING US AWAY!

THERE! BY SIMPLY NARROWING MY MAGNETIC WAVES ALL AROUND THE LESSER HUMANS, I CAN KEEP THEM CONFINED TO THAT AREA UNTIL I REACH THEIR OFFICER-IN-COMMAND!

AND FINALLY...
HOLD IT, MEN!
ALL RIGHT, WHO-EVER YOU ARE...IF YOU'VE SOMETHING TO SAY, YOU'VE GOT SIXTY SECONDS TO SAY IT!
WRONG, GENERAL! I HAVE ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD! AND NOW, I, THE MIRACULOUS MAGNETO, CLAIM THIS ENTIRE INSTALLATION...IN THE NAME OF HOMO SUPERIOR!!

THAT DOES IT! TAKE HIM, MEN! WE'LL SHOW HIM THAT...
WHA...WHAT'S THAT?? WE CAN'T MOVE OUT OF THIS SMALL AREA! IT'S LIKE BEING ENCIRCLED BY AN INVISIBLE, LIVING FENCE!

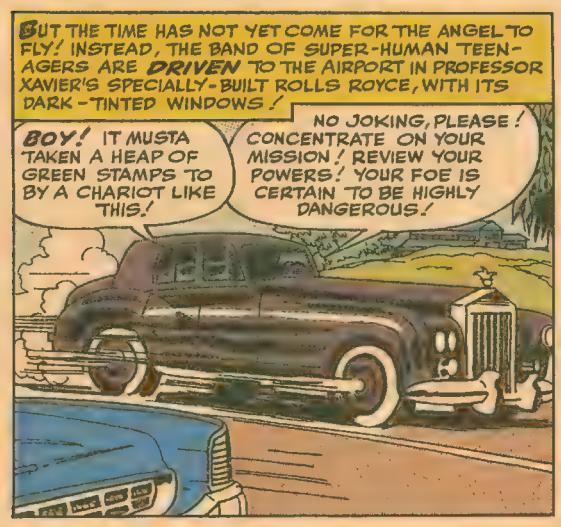

THAT "LIVING FENCE" AS YOU CALL IT, IS THE SYMBOL OF MY GREAT POWER! IT IS A MIGHTY SHIELD OF MAGNETIC ENERGY!
AND SO I HAVE NOW ACCOMPLISHED MY FIRST OBJECTIVE! GENTLEMEN, CAPE CITADEL IS MINE!

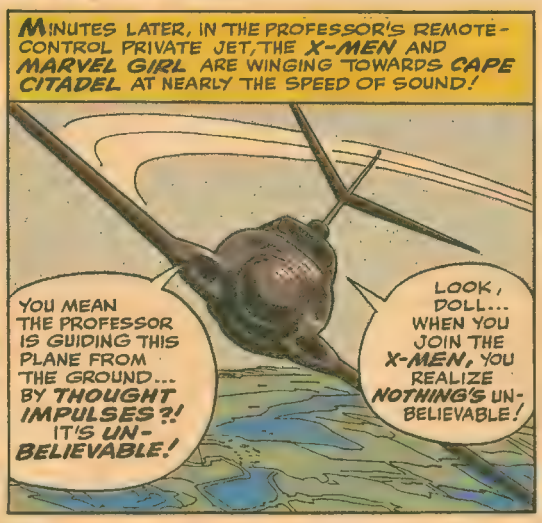
MEANWHILE, IN A DORMITORY ROOM AT THE WORLD'S MOST EXCLUSIVE PRIVATE SCHOOL, JEAN GREY IS ABSORBED WITH HER REFLECTION IN THE FULL-LENGTH MIRROR ... THE REFLECTION WHICH REVEALS THE NEW MARVEL GIRL!
MMM, WHOEVER DESIGNED THIS UNIFORM COULD HAVE GIVEN CHRISTIAN DIOR A RUN FOR HIS MONEY!
WHERE DID THE NEW DOLL GO? OH... THERE SHE IS!
WOWEE! LOOKS LIKE SHE WAS POURED INTO THAT UNIFORM!
YOU AGAIN! HONESTLY! CAN'T A GIRL HAVE ANY PRIVACY AROUND HERE?
EASY, GORGEOUS! WE WERE JUST PASSIN' BY! DON'T GO GETTIN' MAD!
SUDDENLY, THE YOUNGSTERS' BANTERING IS FORGOTTEN AS A SHARP COMMANDING THOUGHT REGISTERS IN THE BRAIN OF EACH OF THEM!
ATTENTION, X-MEN! THIS IS PROFESSOR XAVIER! REPORT TO MY STUDY IMMEDIATELY... YOU HAVE FIFTEEN SECONDS! NO EXCUSES WILL BE TOLERATED!
WOW! DID ALL OF YOU RECEIVE THAT MENTAL BLAST?
AND HOW! IT SOUNDED LIKE A TRUMPET'S BLARE! LET'S GO!
EXACTLY FIFTEEN SECONDS LATER...
I COMMEND YOU FOR YOUR PUNCTUALITY!
YOU'RE SPEAKING ALOUD! THAT MEANS IT'S IMPORTANT!
I HAVE JUST HEARD A BULLETIN ON THE RADIO WHICH CONCERNS YOU!
I NEVER SAW THE PROFESSOR LIKE THIS BEFORE ...SO GRIM, SO INTENSE!
A CRISIS HAS OCCURRED AT CAPE CITADEL WHICH LEADS ME TO BELIEVE THE FIRST OF THE EVIL MUTANTS HAS MADE HIS APPEARANCE! THIS WILL BE YOUR BAPTISM OF FIRE! YOU ARE TO GO TO THE CAPE... AND DEFEAT HIM!
YAYBO!! ACTION AT LAST! GANGWAY!
CAPE CITADEL! WHATEVER THE MENACE IS, IT MUST INVOLVE OUR MISSILES!
WONDER WHO THE MUTANT BADDIE IS?
HAH! I CAN GET READY FASTER THAN THE REST OF YOU! ALL I HAVETA DO IS ICE UP AND PUT ON MY BOOTS!

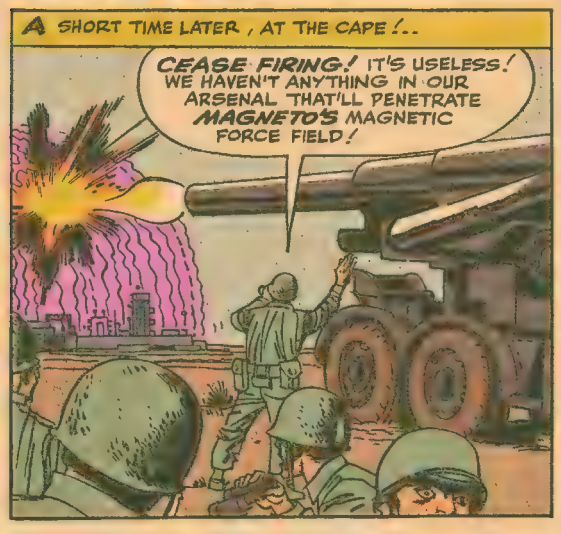
AS FOR ME, IT'LL BE A PLEASURE TO GET OUT OF THIS HARNESS I HAVE TO WEAR!
HAVING A PAIR OF WINGS CAN BE MORE TROUBLE THAN YOU'D GUESS!

THESE RESTRAINING BELTS OF MINE KEEP MY WINGS FROM BULGING UNDER MY SUIT, BUT AFTER A WHILE THEY FEEL LIKE I'M WEARING A STRAIT-JACKET!

AHHH! THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! NOW I FEEL LIKE MYSELF AGAIN! NOW THE ANGEL IS READY TO SPREAD HIS WINGS ..AND FLY!


BUT THE TIME HAS NOT YET COME FOR THE ANGEL TO FLY! INSTEAD, THE BAND OF SUPER-HUMAN TEEN-AGERS ARE DRIVEN TO THE AIRPORT IN PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SPECIALLY-BUILT ROLLS ROYCE, WITH ITS DARK-TINTED WINDOWS!
BOY! IT MUSTA TAKEN A HEAP OF GREEN STAMPS TO BY A CHARIOT LIKE THIS!
NO JOKING, PLEASE! CONCENTRATE ON YOUR MISSION! REVIEW YOUR POWERS! YOUR FOE IS CERTAIN TO BE HIGHLY DANGEROUS!


MINUTES LATER, IN THE PROFESSOR'S REMOTE-CONTROL PRIVATE JET, THE X-MEN AND MARVEL GIRL ARE WINGING TOWARDS CAPE CITADEL AT NEARLY THE SPEED OF SOUND!
YOU MEAN THE PROFESSOR IS GUIDING THIS PLANE FROM THE GROUND... BY THOUGHT IMPULSES?! IT'S UN-BELIEVABLE!
LOOK, DOLL... WHEN YOU JOIN THE X-MEN, YOU REALIZE NOTHING'S UN-BELIEVABLE!


A SHORT TIME LATER, AT THE CAPE!..
CEASE FIRING! IT'S USELESS! WE HAVEN'T ANYTHING IN OUR ARSENAL THAT'LL PENETRATE MAGNETO'S MAGNETIC FORCE FIELD!

TO ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, HE'S IN FULL CONTROL OF THE INSTALLATION, WHILE WE'RE ON THE OUTSIDE, LOOKING IN!
WITH DUE RESPECT, GENERAL, I REPRESENT THE X-MEN! PERHAPS WE CAN HELP!
X-MEN?! WHAT THE..?!

LOOK, WE'RE HAVING ENOUGH TROUBLE WITH ONE GUY IN A CORNBALL COSTUME! NOW, WHO OR WHAT ARE THE X-MEN?
NO TIME TO EXPLAIN, SIR! I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST YOU TO HOLD YOUR FIRE FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES WHILE MY PARTNERS AND I GO INTO ACTION!

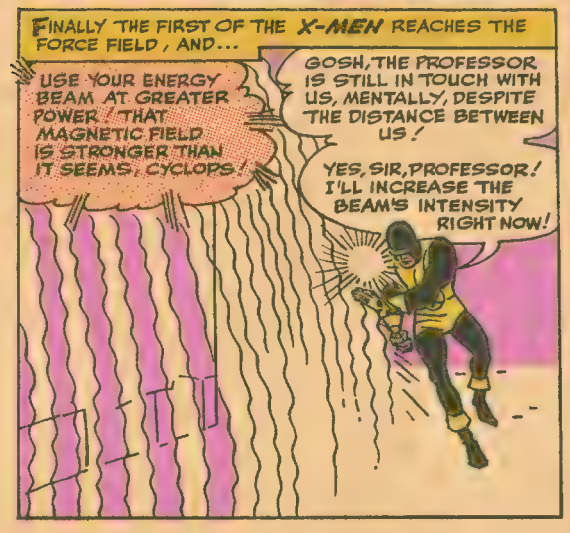
ALL RIGHT! WE'VE NOTHING TO LOSE! BUT I FEEL LIKE A DANGED FOOL!
YOU WON'T REGRET IT, SIR! X-MEN... ATTACK!!

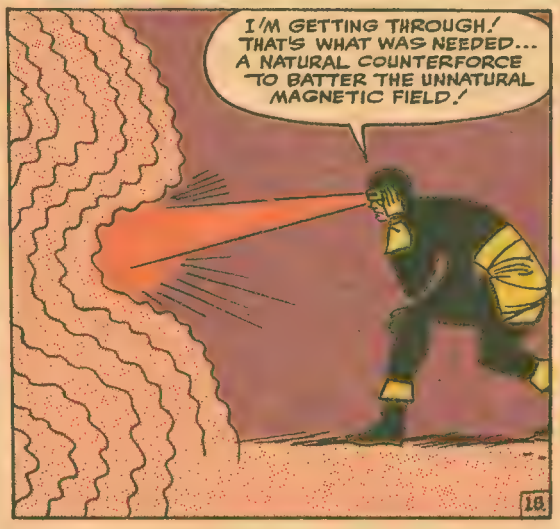
HEY! WHAT'S GOIN' ON?? IT...IT'S FREEZIN' ALL OF A SUDDEN!
SORRY, MEN! I'LL BE OUT OF HERE IN A SECOND, AND THEN YOU CAN WARM UP AGAIN! I'M SAVIN' MY REAL BIG FREEZE FOR WHOEVER'S HIDING BEHIND THAT FORCE FIELD!

AT LAST WE'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO USE ALL THE TRAINING THE PROFESSOR GAVE US!

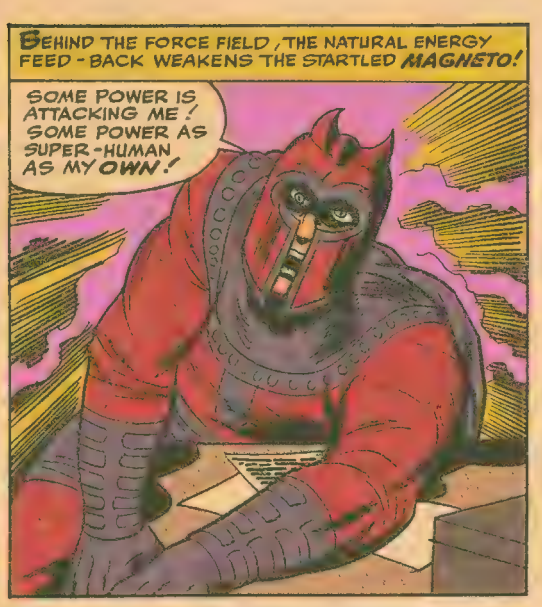
ULP! A WALKIN' SNOWMAN! A GUY WITH WINGS FLYIN' ABOVE US! WHA... WHAT'S NEXT?!
YOU'LL SEE IN A SEC, SOLDIER, WHEN I PLAY LEAP FROG OVER YOU!

SORRY, BOYS! I'M IN A HURRY, AND THIS IS THE EASIEST WAY TO CLEAR A PATH FOR MYSELF!


FINALLY THE FIRST OF THE X-MEN REACHES THE FORCE FIELD, AND...
USE YOUR ENERGY BEAM AT GREATER POWER! THAT MAGNETIC FIELD IS STRONGER THAN IT SEEMS, CYCLOPS!
GOSH, THE PROFESSOR IS STILL IN TOUCH WITH US, MENTALLY, DESPITE THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US!
YES, SIR, PROFESSOR! I'LL INCREASE THE BEAM'S INTENSITY RIGHT NOW!


I'M GETTING THROUGH! THAT'S WHAT WAS NEEDED... A NATURAL COUNTERFORCE TO BATTER THE UNNATURAL MAGNETIC FIELD!

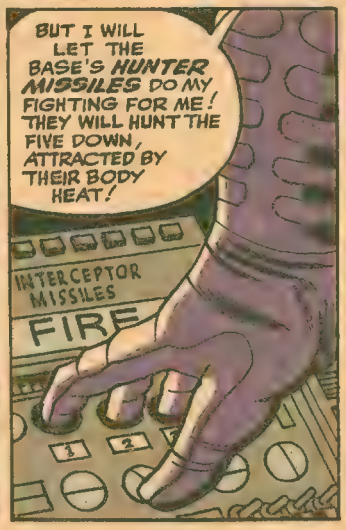
AND NOW, I'LL SWITCH TO MAXIMUM POWER! I CAN ONLY MAINTAIN THIS PRESSURE FOR A FEW SECONDS, BUT... AHH! I DID IT!

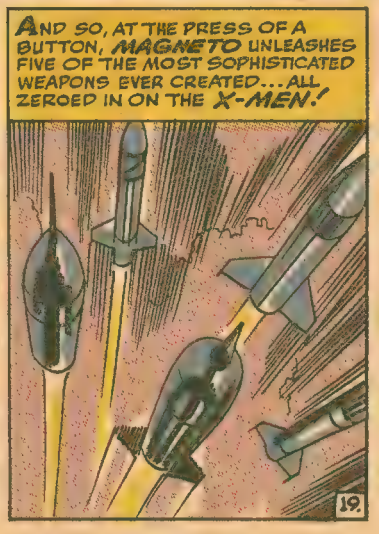

BEHIND THE FORCE FIELD, THE NATURAL ENERGY FEED-BACK WEAKENS THE STARTLED MAGNETO!
SOME POWER IS ATTACKING ME! SOME POWER AS SUPER-HUMAN AS MY OWN!

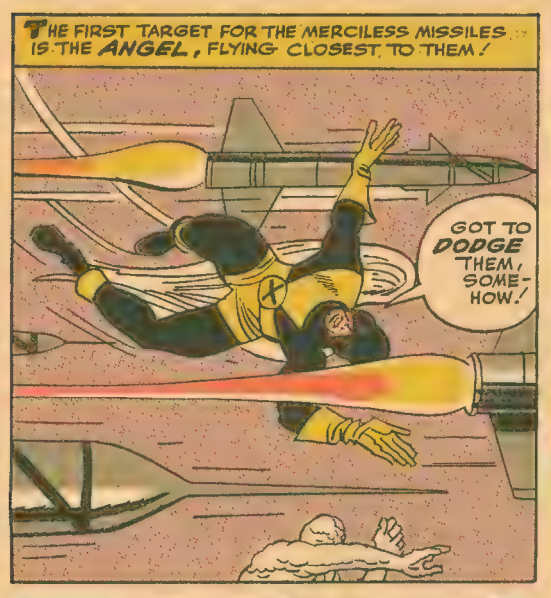
I WAS STAGGERED BECAUSE I WAS UN-PREPARED FOR ANY SUCH ONSLAUGHT! BUT NOW THAT I'M FOREWARNED, I CAN DEFEAT ANY FOE...NO MATTER HOW SUPER-HUMAN HE MAY BE!

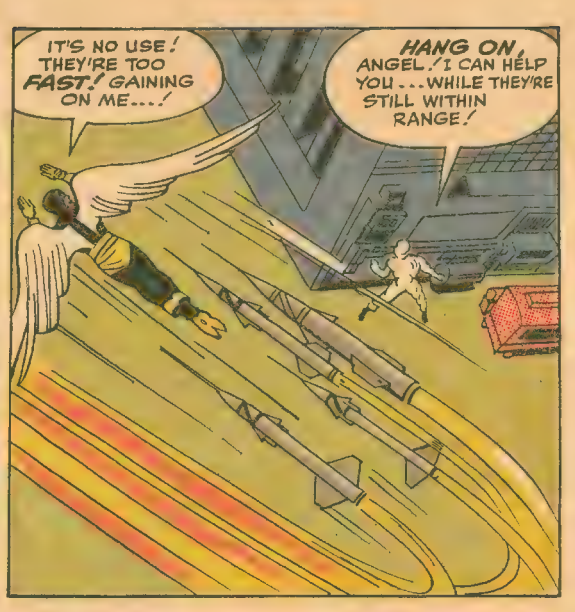
BUT MAGNETO IS SOON TO LEARN THAT HE HAS MORE THAN ONE FOE TO CONTEND WITH! HE HAS THE FIGHTING BAND OF X-MEN!
CYCLOPS ALMOST KNOCKED HIM-SELF OUT, BUT HE GOT US IN HERE! NOW LET'S PROVE WE CAN CARRY THE BALL!
LOOK SHARP, X-MEN! YOU ARE FACING A DANGER-OUS ENEMY!

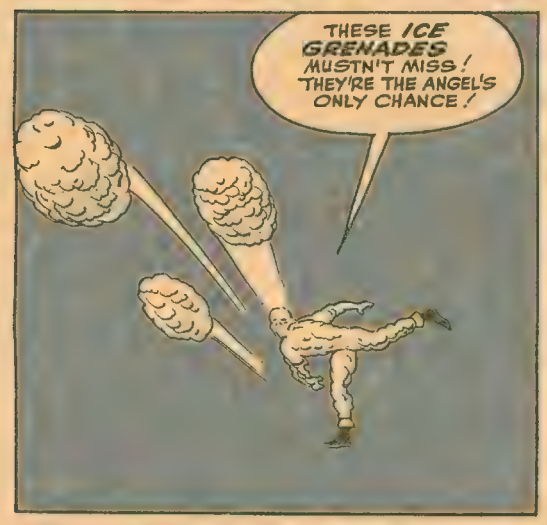
AHHH! NOW I SEE MY ANTAGONISTS! FIVE COSTUMED YOUTHS! SURELY ALL THEIR POWERS PUT TOGETHER CAN BE NO MATCH FOR MINE!

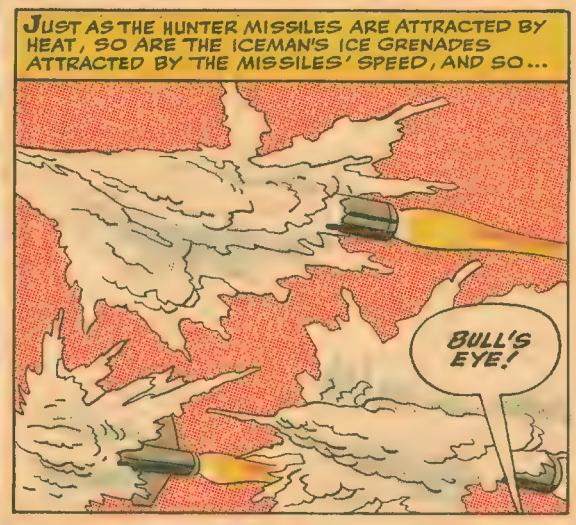

BUT I WILL LET THE BASE'S HUNTER MISSILES DO MY FIGHTING FOR ME! THEY WILL HUNT THE FIVE DOWN, ATTRACTED BY THEIR BODY HEAT!
INTERCEPTOR MISSILES
FIRE

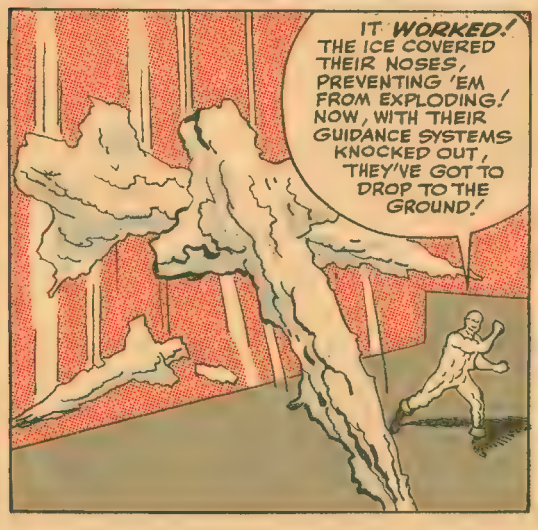

AND SO, AT THE PRESS OF A BUTTON, MAGNETO UNLEASHES FIVE OF THE MOST SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS EVER CREATED...ALL ZEROED IN ON THE X-MEN!

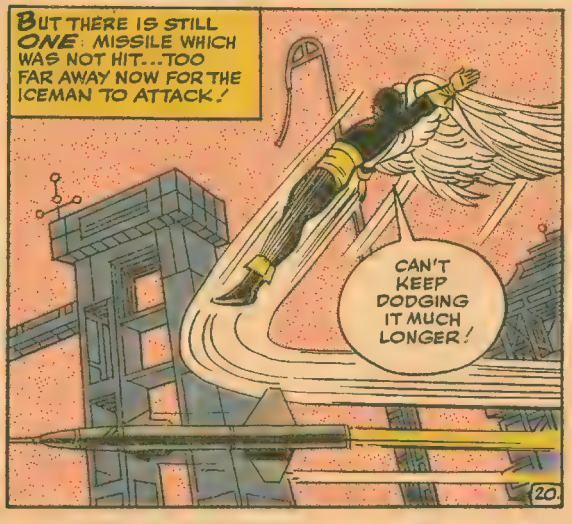

THE FIRST TARGET FOR THE MERCILESS MISSILES IS THE ANGEL, FLYING CLOSEST TO THEM!
GOT TO DODGE THEM, SOMEHOW!

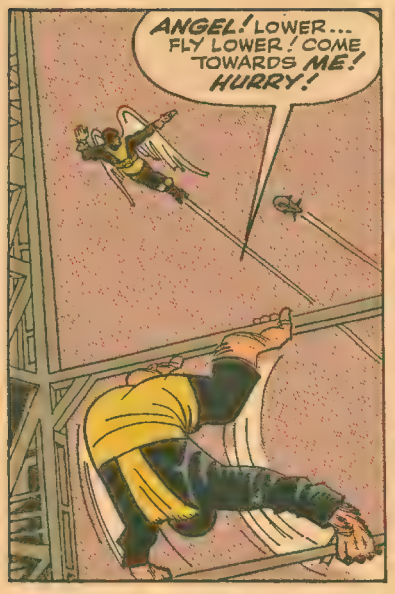

IT'S NO USE! THEY'RE TOO FAST! GAINING ON ME....!
HANG ON, ANGEL! I CAN HELP YOU...WHILE THEY'RE STILL WITHIN RANGE!

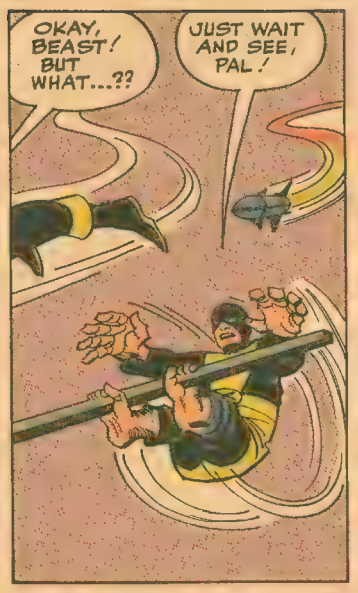

THESE ICE GRENADES MUSTN'T MISS! THEY'RE THE ANGEL'S ONLY CHANCE!

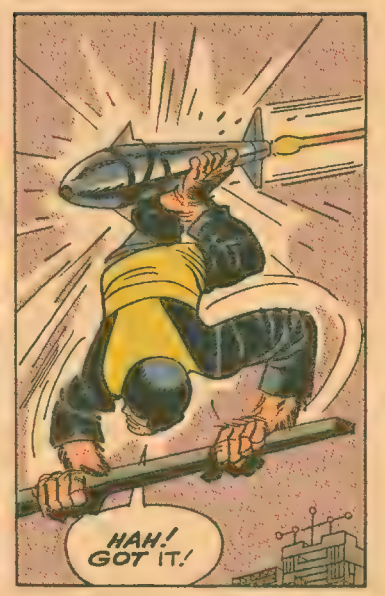

JUST AS THE HUNTER MISSILES ARE ATTRACTED BY HEAT, SO ARE THE ICEMAN'S ICE GRENADES ATTRACTED BY THE MISSILES' SPEED, AND SO...
BULL'S EYE!


IT WORKED! THE ICE COVERED THEIR NOSES, PREVENTING 'EM FROM EXPLODING! NOW, WITH THEIR GUIDANCE SYSTEMS KNOCKED OUT, THEY'VE GOT TO DROP TO THE GROUND!

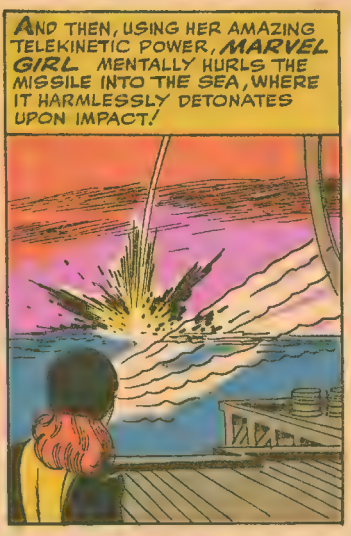

BUT THERE IS STILL ONE MISSILE WHICH WAS NOT HIT...TOO FAR AWAY NOW FOR THE ICEMAN TO ATTACK!
CAN'T KEEP DODGING IT MUCH LONGER!


ANGEL! LOWER... FLY LOWER! COME TOWARDS ME! HURRY!


OKAY, BEAST! BUT WHAT...??
JUST WAIT AND SEE, PAL!

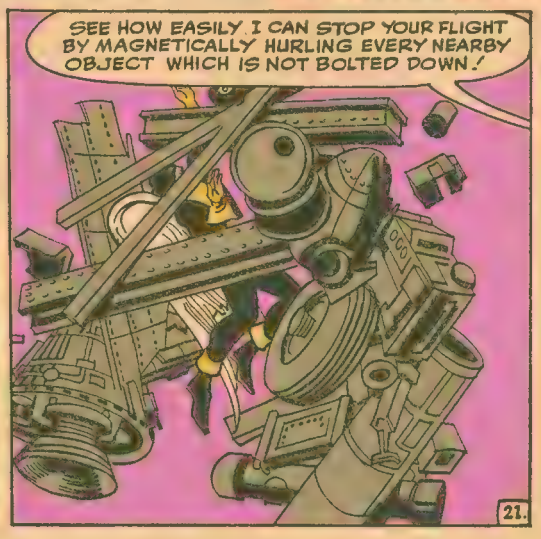

HAH! GOT IT!

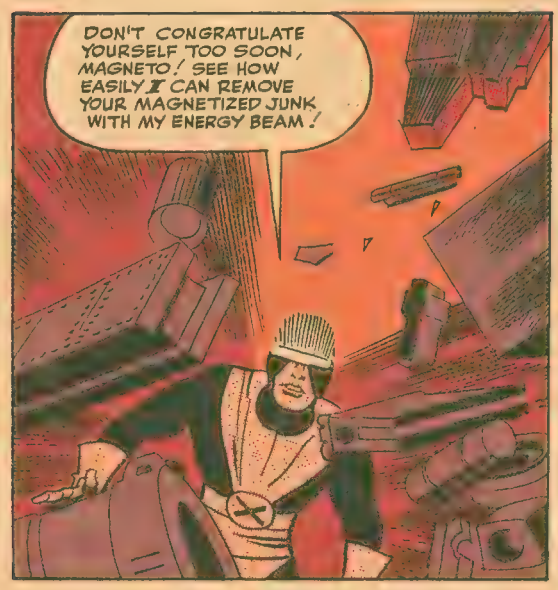
GOOD WORK, BEAST! NOW RELEASE IT! I'LL TAKE OVER NOW!


AND THEN, USING HER AMAZING TELEKINETIC POWER, MARVEL GIRL MENTALLY HURLS THE MISSILE INTO THE SEA, WHERE IT HARMLESSLY DETONATES UPON IMPACT!

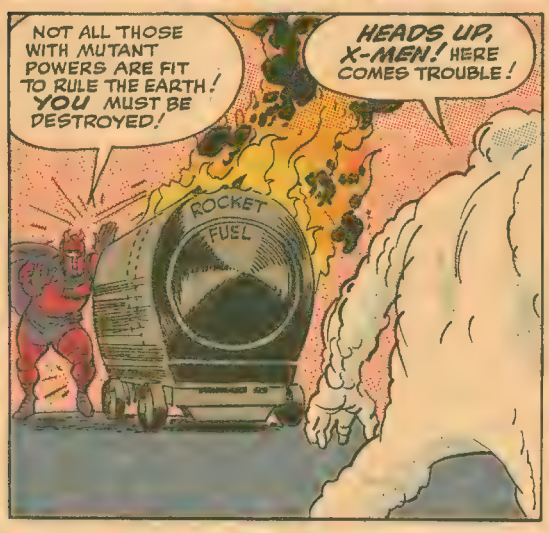
DESPITE THEIR SEEMING YOUTH AND INEXPERIENCE, THEY ARE MIGHTY ANTAGONISTS! I MUST NEVER AGAIN MAKE THE MISTAKE OF UNDER-ESTIMATING THEM! BUT I SHALL STILL PROVE TO BE THEIR MASTER!

THERE HE IS! I'VE FOUND HIM!! X-MEN, ATTACK!!
WRONG, YOU FLYING FOOL! IT IS I, MAGNETO, WHO HAVE FOUND YOU!


SEE HOW EASILY I CAN STOP YOUR FLIGHT BY MAGNETICALLY HURLING EVERY NEARBY OBJECT WHICH IS NOT BOLTED DOWN!

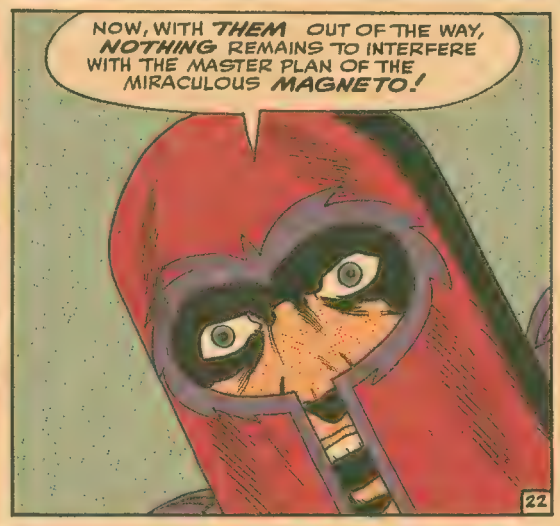

DON'T CONGRATULATE YOURSELF TOO SOON, MAGNETO! SEE HOW EASILY I CAN REMOVE YOUR MAGNETIZED JUNK WITH MY ENERGY BEAM!

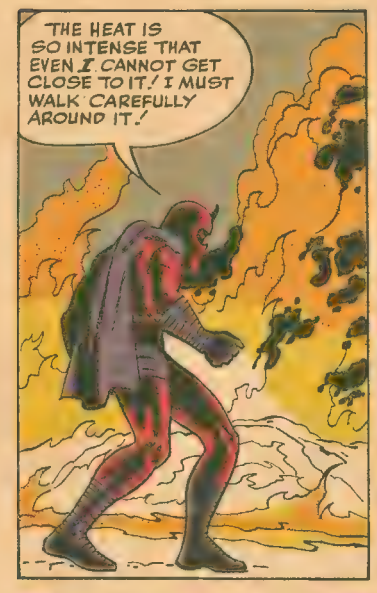
MUCH OBLIGED, CYCLOPS! MAGNETO CAN'T HAVE GONE FAR ... LET'S FIND HIM NOW!
THEY ARE ALL TOGETHER NOW! GOOD! I'LL FINISH THEM OFF WITH ONE FELL SWOOP!


NOT ALL THOSE WITH MUTANT POWERS ARE FIT TO RULE THE EARTH! YOU MUST BE DESTROYED!
HEADS UP, X-MEN! HERE COMES TROUBLE!
ROCKET FUEL

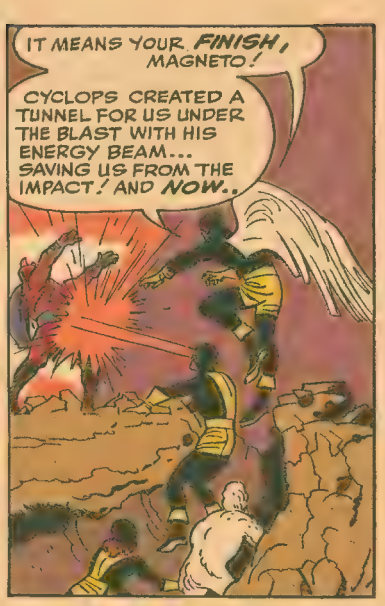
CAN'T GET OUT OF THE WAY IN TIME! ONLY ONE THING TO DO! STAY CLOSE TOGETHER ... I'LL COVER US WITH AN ICE IGLOO SHIELD!
HE IGNITED THE ROCKET FUEL! IT'S GONNA BLOW UP!!

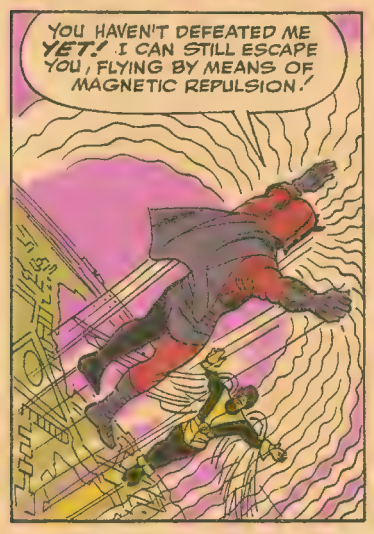
WHAM!

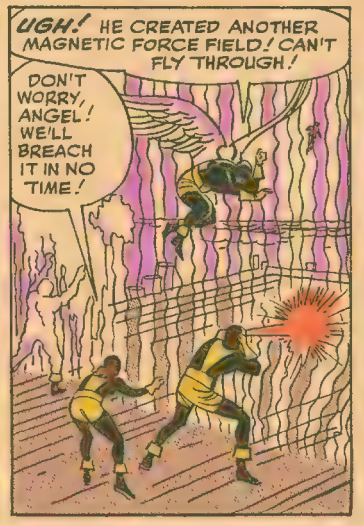

NOW, WITH THEM OUT OF THE WAY, NOTHING REMAINS TO INTERFERE WITH THE MASTER PLAN OF THE MIRACULOUS MAGNETO!

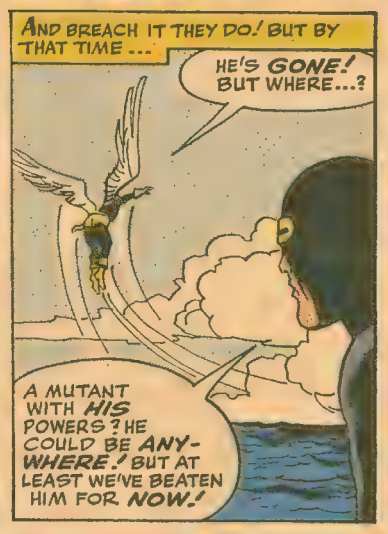

THE HEAT IS SO INTENSE THAT EVEN I CANNOT GET CLOSE TO IT! I MUST WALK CAREFULLY AROUND IT!

THAT BEAM... FROM BENEATH THE GROUND!! WHAT... WHAT DOES IT MEAN?


IT MEANS YOUR FINISH, MAGNETO!
CYCLOPS CREATED A TUNNEL FOR US UNDER THE BLAST WITH HIS ENERGY BEAM... SAVING US FROM THE IMPACT! AND NOW..

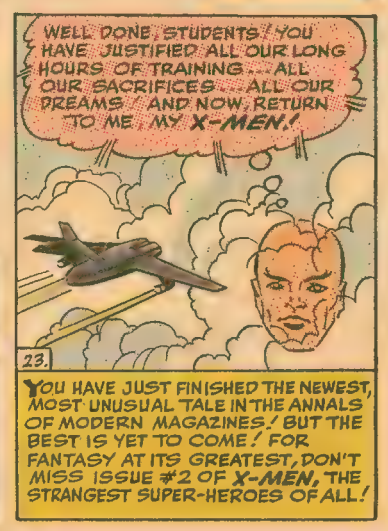

YOU HAVEN'T DEFEATED ME YET! I CAN STILL ESCAPE YOU, FLYING BY MEANS OF MAGNETIC REPULSION!


UGH! HE CREATED ANOTHER MAGNETIC FORCE FIELD! CAN'T FLY THROUGH!
DON'T WORRY, ANGEL! WE'LL BREACH IT IN NO TIME!


AND BREACH IT THEY DO! BUT BY THAT TIME ...
HE'S GONE! BUT WHERE...?
A MUTANT WITH HIS POWERS? HE COULD BE ANYWHERE! BUT AT LEAST WE'VE BEATEN HIM FOR NOW!

YOUR BASE IS OPERATIONAL AGAIN, GENERAL! MAGNETO IS GONE!
UNCANNY! YOUR FIFTEEN MINUTES ARE NOT YET UP!

YOU CALL YOURSELVES THE X-MEN! I WILL NOT ASK YOU TO REVEAL YOUR TRUE IDENTITIES, BUT I PROMISE YOU THAT BEFORE THIS DAY IS OVER, THE NAME X-MEN WILL BE THE MOST HONORED IN MY COMMAND!
THANK YOU, SIR! AND SHOULD AMERICA'S SECURITY EVER AGAIN BE THREATENED, THE X-MEN WILL BE BACK!


WELL DONE, STUDENTS! YOU HAVE JUSTIFIED ALL OUR LONG HOURS OF TRAINING... ALL OUR SACRIFICES... ALL OUR DREAMS... AND NOW, RETURN TO ME, MY X-MEN!
23.
YOU HAVE JUST FINISHED THE NEWEST, MOST UNUSUAL TALE IN THE ANNALS OF MODERN MAGAZINES! BUT THE BEST IS YET TO COME! FOR FANTASY AT ITS GREATEST, DON'T MISS ISSUE #2 OF X-MEN, THE STRANGEST SUPER-HEROES OF ALL!

GIANT-SIZE X-MEN
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X-MEN
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— CO-CREATORS —

WINZELDORF, GERMANY: NESTLED DEEP IN THE BAVARIAN ALPS, THIS TINY VILLAGE HAS HARDLY CHANGED OVER THE CENTURIES.
IN WINZELDORF, LIFE IS GENTLE, PEACEFUL --

--FOR NOTHING EVER HAPPENS HERE TO DISTURB THE DOMESTIC...
...TRANQUILITY?
THIS WAY, MEN! THE MONSTER WENT THIS WAY!

MONSTER, IS IT?
THE FOOLS! IT IS THEY WHO ARE THE MONSTERS--
--THEY WITH THEIR MINDLESS PREJUDICES!

PERHAPS THINGS WOULD BE SIMPLER--SAFER-- IF I HAD STAYED WITH DER JAHRMARKT--
--BUT THE LIFE OF A CARNIVAL FREAK IS NOT FOR ME-- NOT FOR KURT WAGNER!
LET THEM COME IF THEY MUST-- LET THEM TRY TO KILL ME--!

AT LEAST IF I DIE, IT WILL BE AS A MAN!
IRONICALLY, THE ASTONISHING LEAP ALONE LENDS DOUBT TO KURT WAGNER'S HUMANITY...

WE'VE GOT HIM NOW!
COME DOWN, MONSTER! COME DOWN--OR WE'LL BURN YOU DOWN!

...AND HIS HIDEOUS HOWLING, LIKE THAT OF A BAYING BEAST, DENIES IT COMPLETELY!
GO AWAY, YOU FOOLS! I HAVE DONE NOTHING!

BUT THE ONLY RESPONSE THE CORNERED MISFIT RECEIVES IS ONE HE HAD HARDLY EXPECTED...
THEY'RE UTTERLY MAD! THEIR THREAT WAS SERIOUS!
THEY'LL DESTROY THEIR ENTIRE VILLAGE TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THEY DESTROY ME!

AND FOR WHAT REASON? I CAME AMONG THEM ONLY TO LEARN--
--YET ALL I'VE LEARNED THUS FAR ARE THE WAYS OF BLIND, UNREASONING VIOLENCE!

WELL, IF THAT IS ALL THAT THOSE WHO DWELL IN THE NORMAL WORLD HAVE TO TEACH ME--

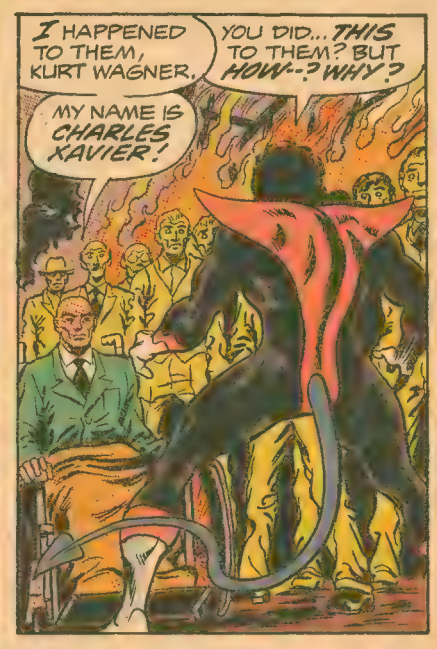
--I WILL SHOW THEM THAT I LEARN MY LESSONS WELL!
THWAMM!

VERY WELL INDEED!
CHOK!

HOWLING WILDLY, KURT WAGNER PLUNGES THRU THE THICK OF THE MOB--
--UNTIL THE SHEER WEIGHT OF ITS NUMBERS CARRIES HIM DOWN!
WE HAVE HIM! WE HAVE HIM!
QUICKLY-- BRING THE STAKE!

NOW, MONSTER-- WE WILL BE RID OF YOU!
NOW WE WILL...
STOP!

AND, REMARKABLY... THEY DO!
VAS--?
TH-THEY'RE NOT MOVING!
WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THEM?

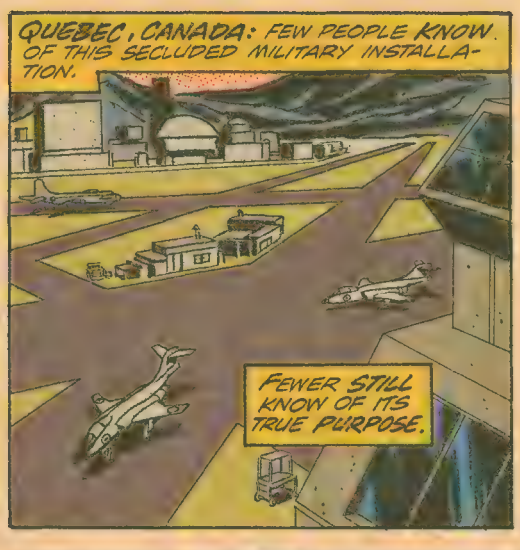

I HAPPENED TO THEM, KURT WAGNER.
YOU DID... THIS TO THEM? BUT HOW--? WHY?
MY NAME IS CHARLES XAVIER!

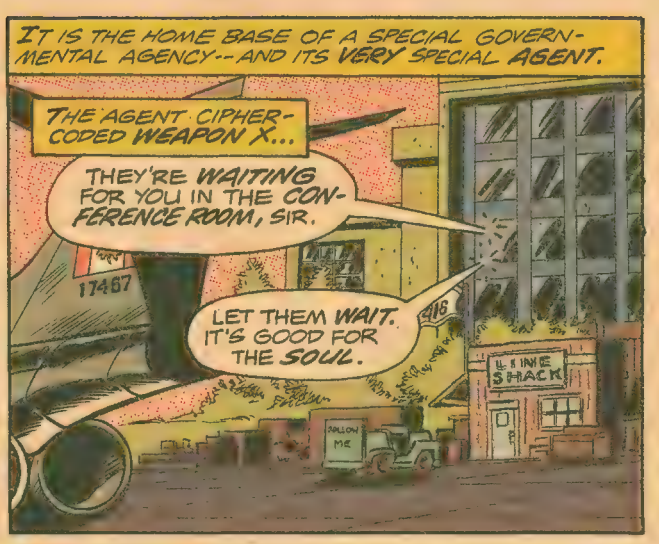
I HEARD YOU SAY YOU'D COME HERE TO LEARN, MY FRIEND. I AM A TEACHER. I RUN A SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS SUCH AS YOU.
A SCHOOL FOR MUTANTS!

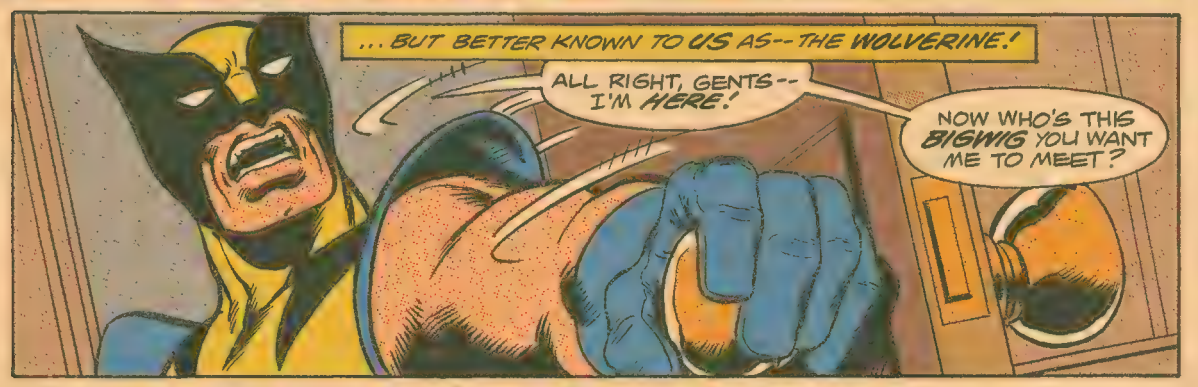
MUTANT? YES... I HAVE HEARD THE WORD.
YOU ARE A MUTANT, KURT.
I CAN HELP YOU FIND YOUR TRUE POTENTIAL.

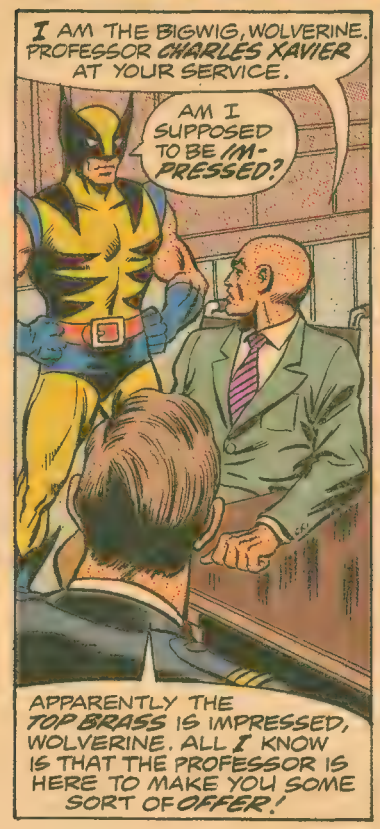
CAN YOU HELP ME TO BE NORMAL?
AFTER TONIGHT'S MISFORTUNE, KURT-- WOULD YOU TRULY WANT TO BE?

PERHAPS NOT. I WANT ONLY TO BE A WHOLE KURT WAGNER!
IF YOU CAN MAKE ME THAT, TEACHER... I WILL GO WITH YOU.


QUEBEC, CANADA: FEW PEOPLE KNOW OF THIS SECLUDED MILITARY INSTALLATION.
FEWER STILL KNOW OF ITS TRUE PURPOSE.


IT IS THE HOME BASE OF A SPECIAL GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY--AND ITS VERY SPECIAL AGENT.
THE AGENT CIPHER-CODED WEAPON X...
THEY'RE WAITING FOR YOU IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, SIR.
LET THEM WAIT. IT'S GOOD FOR THE SOUL.
17467
LINE SHACK


...BUT BETTER KNOWN TO US AS--THE WOLVERINE!
ALL RIGHT, GENTS--I'M HERE!
NOW WHO'S THIS BIGWIG YOU WANT ME TO MEET?


I AM THE BIGWIG, WOLVERINE. PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER AT YOUR SERVICE.
AM I SUPPOSED TO BE IMPRESSED?
APPARENTLY THE TOP BRASS IS IMPRESSED, WOLVERINE. ALL I KNOW IS THAT THE PROFESSOR IS HERE TO MAKE YOU SOME SORT OF OFFER!

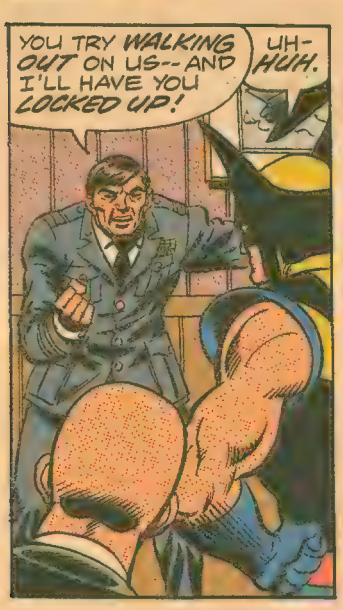
AN OFFER, EH? OKAY, PROF--YOU'VE PIQUED MY CURIOSITY. WHAT'S THE DEAL?
I'LL COME STRAIGHT TO THE POINT THEN.
I KNOW OF YOUR RECENT BATTLE WITH THE HULK*--AND, MOREOVER, I KNOW OF YOUR POWERS.
*IN HULK #181. --LEN.

YOU, MY FRIEND, ARE A MUTANT--AND I HAVE NEED OF MUTANTS--
--DESPERATE NEED!

BUT WHAT ABOUT MY POSITION HERE--?
I'M OFFERING YOU A CHANCE TO BECOME A FREE AGENT--
--A CHANCE TO LEARN TO PUT YOUR POWERS TO THEIR GREATEST USE!

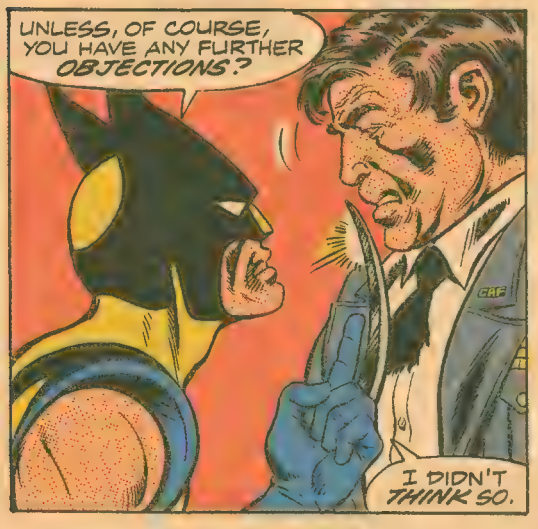
A CHANCE TO GET OUT FROM UNDER THE RED TAPE AND RIGMAROLE, EH?
ALL RIGHT, PROFESSOR--YOU'VE FOUND YOUR MAN!
WHAT--?

NOT SO FAST, FELLA!
THE GOVERNMENT HAS INVESTED A GREAT DEAL OF TIME AND MONEY TURNING YOU INTO WHAT YOU ARE NOW!


YOU TRY WALKING OUT ON US--AND I'LL HAVE YOU LOCKED UP!
UH-HUH.

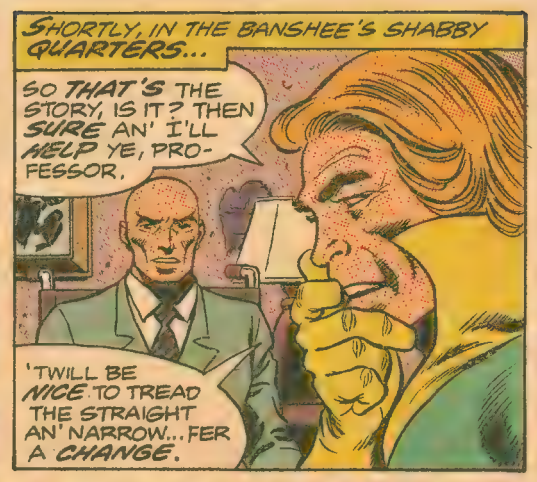
IT SEEMS YOU DIDN'T GET MY MEANING, FRIEND.
THIS IS STILL A FREE COUNTRY, ISN'T IT?
SNIKT!

SO I'M RESIGNING MY COMMISSION--
--EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY!
KRRRIIIPP!

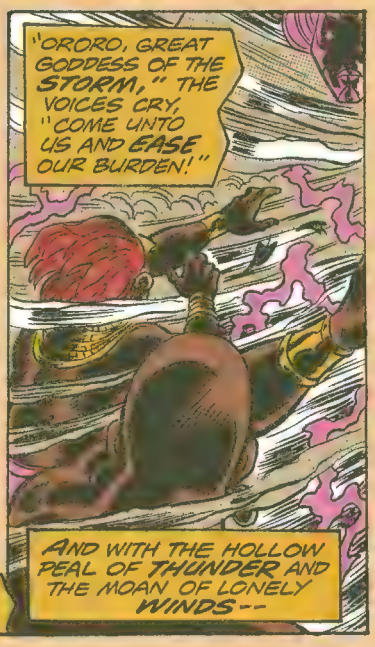

UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER OBJECTIONS?
I DIDN'T THINK SO.

BELIEVE ME, MISTER--YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THE LAST OF THIS!
ANY TIME YOU WANT ME, YOU KNOW WHERE TO COME LOOKING!
COME ON, PROF--LET'S GO!

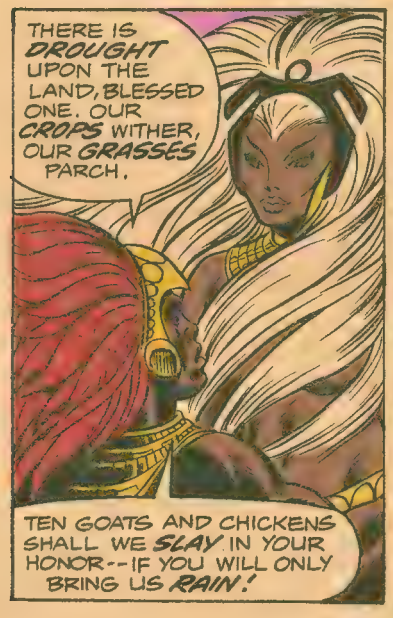
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE: A VISITOR TO THE GRAND OL' OPRY FINDS HE HAS A VISITOR OF HIS OWN...
BEGORRA! 'TIS PROFESSOR X HIMSELF NOW.
BANSHEE-- I MUST TALK WITH YOU.


SHORTLY, IN THE BANSHEE'S SHABBY QUARTERS...
SO THAT'S THE STORY, IS IT? THEN SURE AN' I'LL HELP YE, PROFESSOR.
'TWILL BE NICE TO TREAD THE STRAIGHT AN' NARROW... FER A CHANGE.

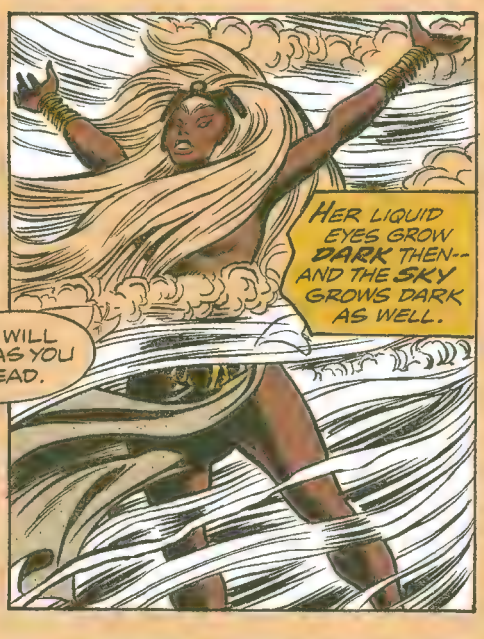
KENYA, EAST AFRICA: ATOP A LONELY KNOLL, THERE STANDS A GREAT STONE PORTAL.
MEN COME TO IT IN HUMILITY, THEIR VOICES RAISED IN PRAISE AND SONG-- AND PRAYERFUL SUPPLICATION.

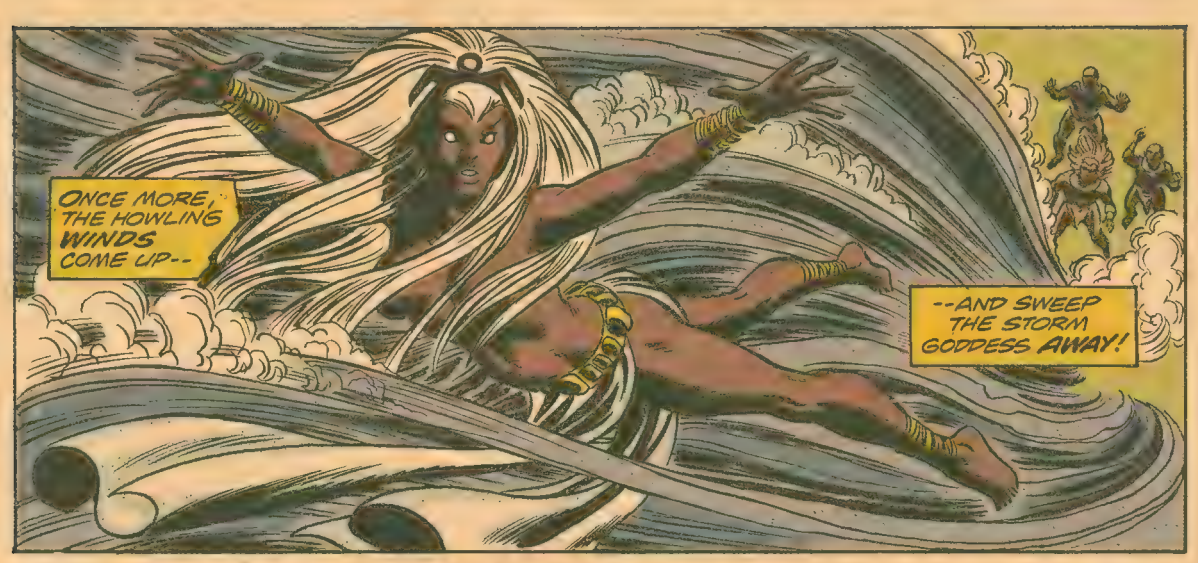

"ORORO, GREAT GODDESS OF THE STORM," THE VOICES CRY, "COME UNTO US AND EASE OUR BURDEN!"
AND WITH THE HOLLOW PEAL OF THUNDER AND THE MOAN OF LONELY WINDS--

--THE STORM GODDESS COMES!
I AM HERE, MY CHILDREN. WHAT DO YOU WISH OF ME?


THERE IS DROUGHT UPON THE LAND, BLESSED ONE. OUR CROPS WITHER, OUR GRASSES PARCH.
TEN GOATS AND CHICKENS SHALL WE SLAY IN YOUR HONOR--IF YOU WILL ONLY BRING US RAIN!

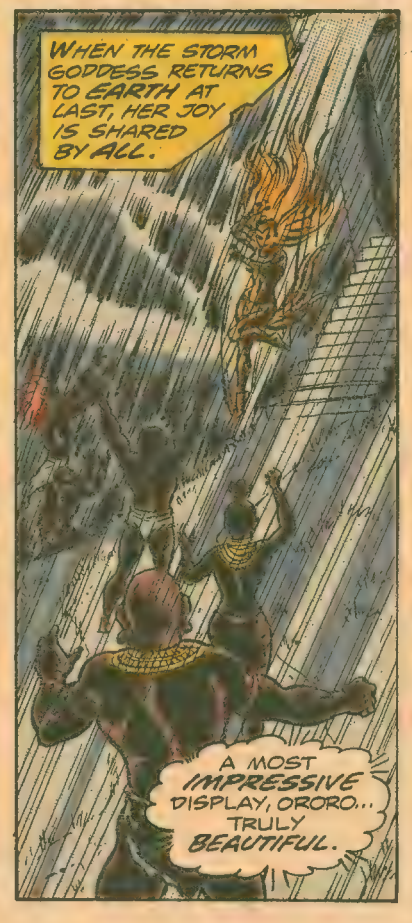
HER EYES ARE CRYSTAL BLUE, AND OLDER THAN TIME. THEY SPARKLE AS SHE ANSWERS...
SAVE YOUR BEASTS, MY CHILDREN. YOU NEED THEM MORE THAN I.
I WILL DO AS YOU PLEAD.


HER LIQUID EYES GROW DARK THEN-- AND THE SKY GROWS DARK AS WELL.


ONCE MORE, THE HOWLING WINDS COME UP--
--AND SWEEP THE STORM GODDESS AWAY!

SHE SOARS ALOFT LIKE AN EBON BIRD, LIGHTNING LANCING FROM HER FINGERTIPS, THE GLOW OF LIFE SHINING FULL UPON HER FACE.
SHE IS HAPPY HERE--ONLY TRULY HAPPY HERE AMONG THE ELEMENTS--

--AND THE RAGING SKY, TOUCHED BY HER HAPPINESS...
...WEEPS.

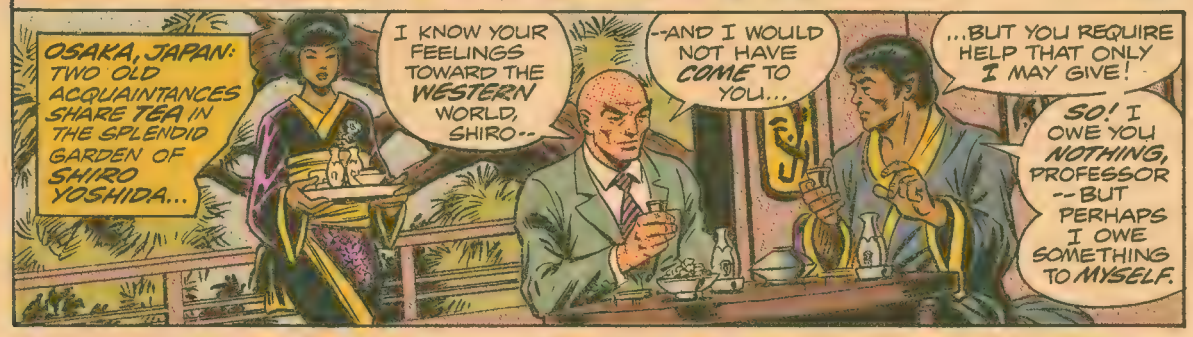

WHEN THE STORM GODDESS RETURNS TO EARTH AT LAST, HER JOY IS SHARED BY ALL.
A MOST IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY, ORORO... TRULY BEAUTIFUL.

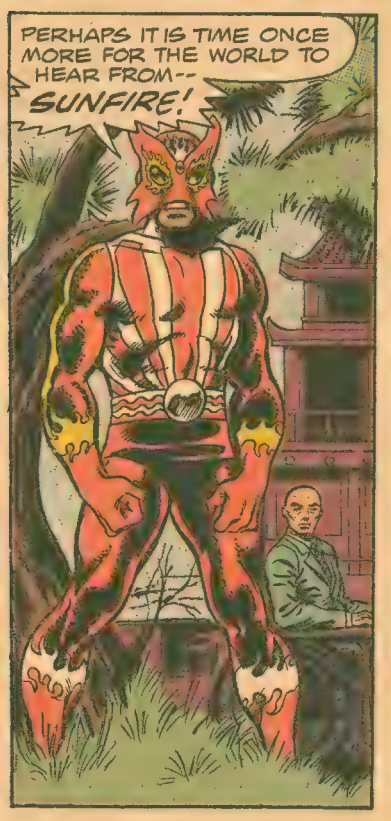
WH-WHO ARE YOU? WHAT BUSINESS HAVE YOU IN ORORO'S LAND?
I AM CALLED XAVIER--
--AND I HAVE COME TO MAKE YOU AN OFFER I PRAY YOU WILL NOT REFUSE.
AN...OFFER? WHAT HAVE YOU TO OFFER A GODDESS?

YOU HAVE A LAND, ORORO-- AND PEOPLE WHO ADORE YOU.
I OFFER YOU A WORLD-- AND PEOPLE WHO MAY FEAR YOU, HATE YOU-- BUT PEOPLE WHO NEED YOU NONETHELESS.
THE WORLD I OFFER IS NOT BEAUTIFUL-- BUT IT IS REAL--
--FAR MORE REAL THAN THE FANTASY YOU'RE LIVING NOW.

"YOU ARE NO GODDESS, ORORO. YOU ARE A MUTANT-- AND YOU HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES.
"COME WITH ME, CHILD. TASTE THE WORLD OUTSIDE. YOU MAY FIND ITS FLAVOR BITTER-- OR SURPRISINGLY SWEET."

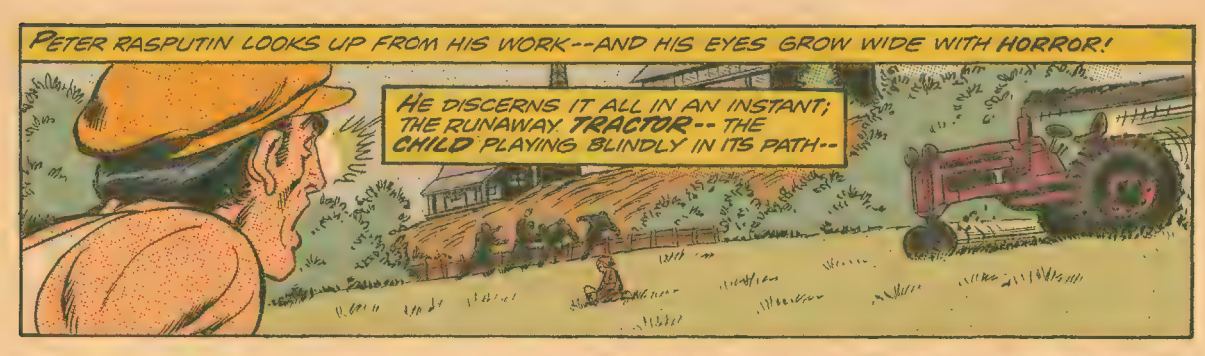
YOU PRESENT A MOST PECULIAR ARGUMENT--YET I SENSE A DEEP SINCERITY IN YOUR WORDS.
ALL RIGHT, I WILL... COME WITH YOU.
PEPHAPS THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO LEAVE THE NEST AT LAST.


OSAKA, JAPAN: TWO OLD ACQUAINTANCES SHARE TEA IN THE SPLENDID GARDEN OF SHIRO YOSHIDA...
I KNOW YOUR FEELINGS TOWARD THE WESTERN WORLD, SHIRO--
--AND I WOULD NOT HAVE COME TO YOU...
...BUT YOU REQUIRE HELP THAT ONLY I MAY GIVE!
SO! I OWE YOU NOTHING, PROFESSOR --BUT PERHAPS I OWE SOMETHING TO MYSELF.


PERHAPS IT IS TIME ONCE MORE FOR THE WORLD TO HEAR FROM-- SUNFIRE!

LAKE BAIKAL, SIBERIA: IT HAS BEEN A GOOD YEAR FOR THE UST-ORDYNSKI COLLECTIVE FARM.
THE CROP HAS BEEN LARGER THAN EXPECTED. THE WHEAT FILLS THE FIELDS LIKE AN AMBER SEA--

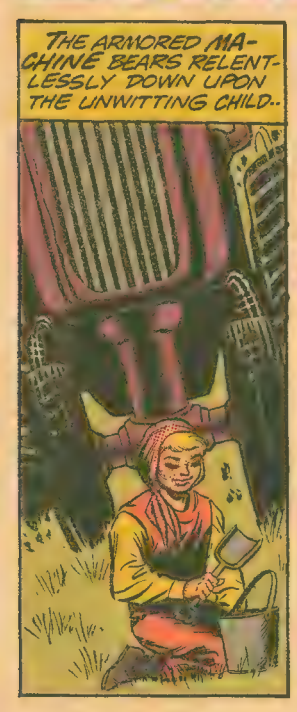
--AND THOSE WHO TOIL IN THE FIELDS ARE FILLED WITH A FEELING OF SATISFACTION, THE KNOWLEDGE OF A JOB WELL DONE--
--AND FEAR!
PETER-- LOOK! YOUR SISTER--!
WHAT IS... NO!

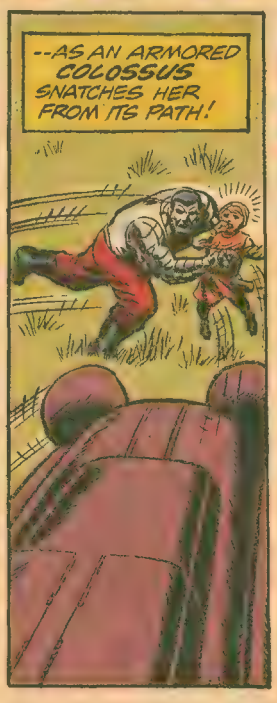

PETER RASPUTIN LOOKS UP FROM HIS WORK--AND HIS EYES GROW WIDE WITH HORROR!
HE DISCERNS IT ALL IN AN INSTANT; THE RUNAWAY TRACTOR-- THE CHILD PLAYING BLINDLY IN ITS PATH--

--AND, WITHOUT HESITATION, PETER RASPUTIN IS RUNNING, LEGS PUMPING, HEART POUNDING--

--THE VERY AIR AROUND HIM CRACKLING WITH THE ENERGY OF HIS EXERTION--

--ENERGY RELEASED IN A MOST ASTONISHING MANNER!

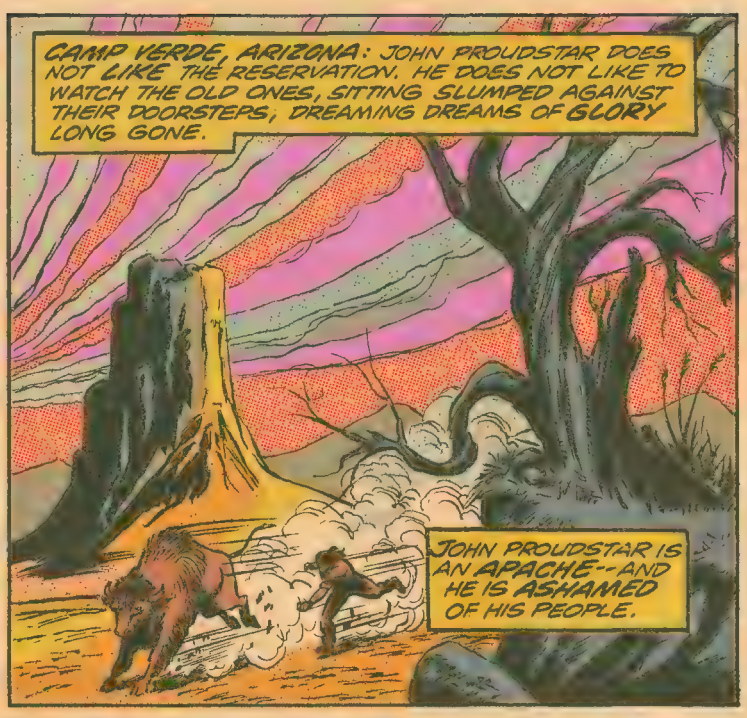

THE ARMORED MACHINE BEARS RELENTLESSLY DOWN UPON THE UNWITTING CHILD--

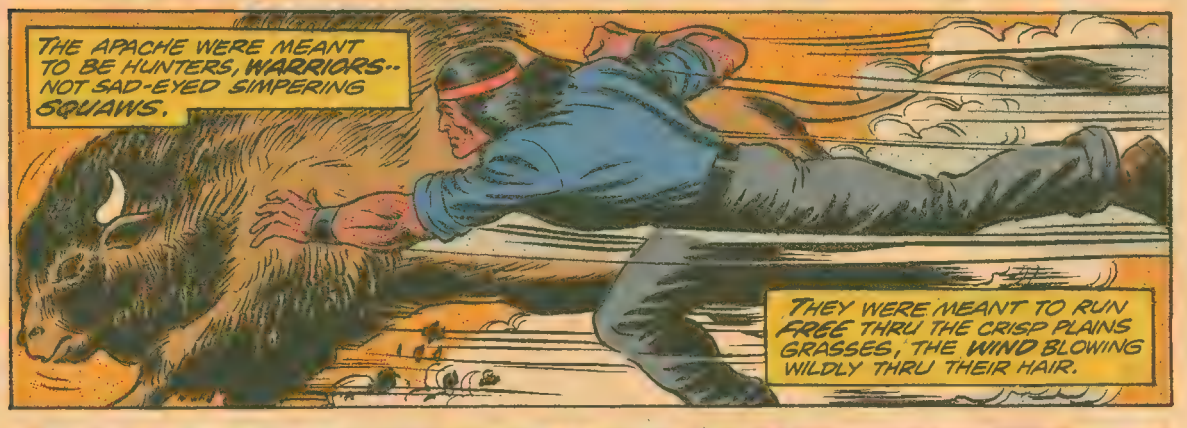

--AS AN ARMORED COLOSSUS SNATCHES HER FROM ITS PATH!

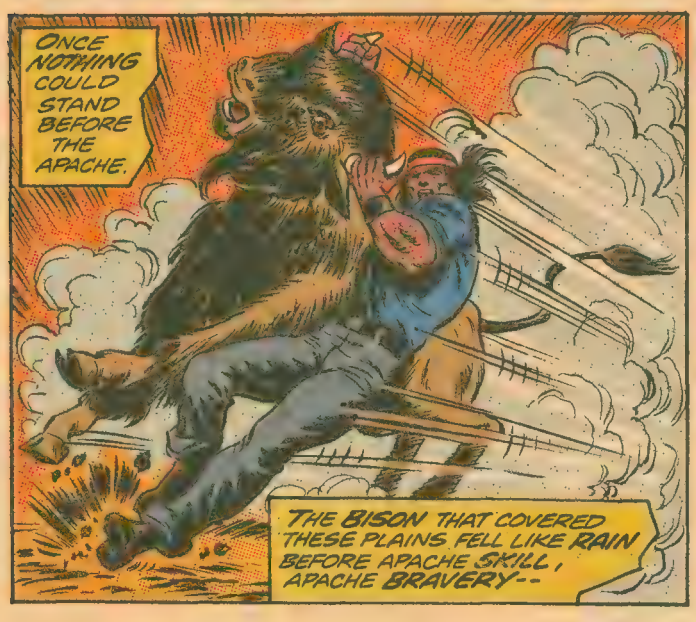
THERE IS NO TIME FOR PETER RASPUTIN TO MOVE OUT OF HARM'S WAY--
--THUS HE STANDS HIS GROUND AS THE RAMPANT TRACTOR PLUNGES TOWARD HIM--

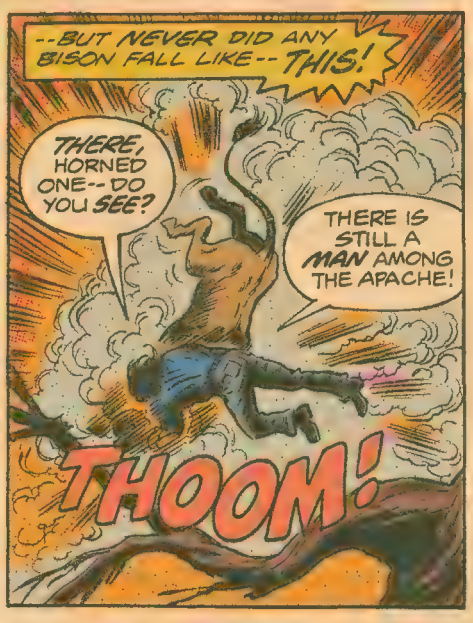
--AND HE WONDERS HOW HIS POOR NEIGHBORS WILL EVER AFFORD TO BUY ANOTHER!
KWA-THOOM!
THAT, THOUGH, IS A WORRY FOR ANOTHER DAY.
THIS DAY WILL BE FILLED WITH PROBLEMS ENOUGH.
PETER RASPUTIN, I WISH TO TALK TO YOU.
THAT VOICE IN MY HEAD--! WHO--?
BY NOW, WE KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION--
--SO MOMENTS LATER...
YOU WANT ME TO GO WITH YOU... TO AMERICA?
BUT IF I POSSESS SUCH POWER AS YOU SAY-- DOES IT NOT BELONG TO THE STATE?
POWER SUCH AS YOURS BELONGS TO THE WORLD, PETER-- TO BE USED FOR THE GOOD OF ALL.
AND BELIEVE ME-- YOUR POWERS ARE NEEDED!
"THEN COME. WE WILL TALK OF THIS WITH MY PARENTS."
...AND SO THIS PROFESSOR WANTS TO TAKE ME WITH HIM-- TO TEACH ME HOW TO DEAL WITH MY... MY MUTANT POWERS.
TH-THERE IS WISDOM IN HIS WORDS, PAPA-- BUT I AM HAPPY HERE.
TELL ME, PAPA-- WHAT SHOULD I DO?
DO AS YOUR HEART TELLS YOU, MY SON. IT WILL NOT BETRAY YOU.
MY HEART TELLS ME TO STAY, PAPA--
--BUT MY CONSCIENCE TELLS ME OTHERWISE.
I MUST GO, PAPA.
THEN IT IS RIGHT THAT YOU DO.

DOSVIDANYA, PETER. OUR LOVE GOES WITH YOU.
DO NOT WORRY, MAMA--I WILL WRITE YOU.
GOOD-BYE, PAPA--I WILL MAKE YOU PROUD.
WE ARE ALREADY PROUD... MY SON.


CAMP VERDE, ARIZONA: JOHN PROUDSTAR DOES NOT LIKE THE RESERVATION. HE DOES NOT LIKE TO WATCH THE OLD ONES, SITTING SLUMPED AGAINST THEIR DOORSTEPS, DREAMING DREAMS OF GLORY LONG GONE.
JOHN PROUDSTAR IS AN APACHE--AND HE IS ASHAMED OF HIS PEOPLE.


THE APACHE WERE MEANT TO BE HUNTERS, WARRIORS--NOT SAD-EYED SIMPERING SQUAWS.
THEY WERE MEANT TO RUN FREE THRU THE CRISP PLAINS GRASSES, THE WIND BLOWING WILDLY THRU THEIR HAIR.


ONCE NOTHING COULD STAND BEFORE THE APACHE.
THE BISON THAT COVERED THESE PLAINS FELL LIKE RAIN BEFORE APACHE SKILL, APACHE BRAVERY--


--BUT NEVER DID ANY BISON FALL LIKE--THIS!
THERE, HORNED ONE--DO YOU SEE?
THERE IS STILL A MAN AMONG THE APACHE!
THOOM!

AND SUCH A MAN HAVE I COME LOOKING FOR, JOHN PROUDSTAR.
HUH??

NOW HOW IN BLAZES DID A CRIPPLE GET WAY OUT HERE? NOT THAT IT MATTERS MUCH.
YOU'VE GOT FIVE SECONDS TO VAMOOSE, WHITE-EYES! I DON'T WANT COMPANY--ESPECIALLY YOURS!
DON'T BE TOO HASTY, MY YOUNG FRIEND.

I'VE COME TO HELP YOU FULFILL YOUR DREAM--TO GIVE PRIDE BACK TO YOUR PEOPLE.
YOU ARE SPECIAL, JOHN PROUDSTAR. YOU ARE A MUTANT.
AND YOU ARE NEEDED.

AND YOU CAN STUFF A CACTUS, CUSTER!
THE WHITE MAN NEEDS ME? THAT'S TOUGH!
I OWE HIM NOTHING BUT THE GRIEF HE'S GIVEN MY PEOPLE!

NOW BEAT IT!
I OFFER YOU A CHANCE TO HELP THE WORLD--AND YOU TURN YOUR BACK ON ME?
THEN PERHAPS WHAT THEY SAY IS TRUE!

PERHAPS THE APACHE ARE ALL FRIGHTENED SELFISH CHILDREN!
HO-KAY... THAT DOES IT!

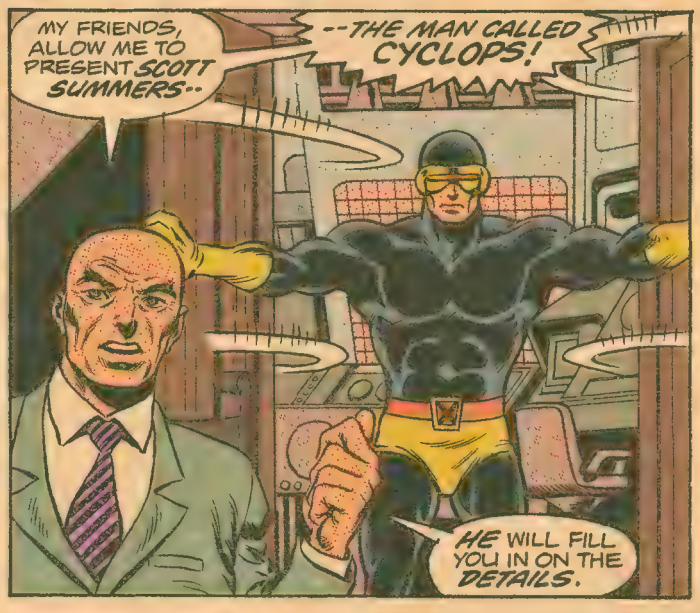
AIN'T NOBODY THAT CALLS ME A COWARD, MISTER!
I'M AS GOOD AS THE NEXT GUY--HELL, I'M BETTER!
YOU GIVE ME A CHANCE--I'LL PROVE IT!
AND YOU WILL HAVE YOUR CHANCE, JOHN. I PROMISE YOU THAT.

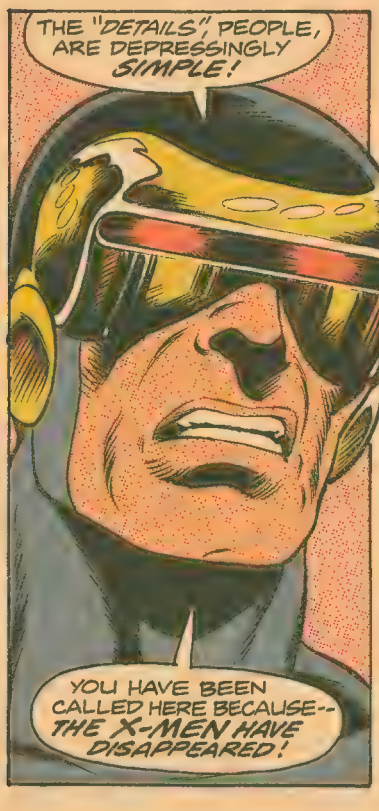
BUT WILL YOU--WILL ANY OF MY NEW X-MEN BE EQUAL TO THE TASK THAT LIES BEFORE YOU?
OR WILL YOU CARRY THE WORLD DOWN INTO RUIN?

CHAPTER II
"...AND WHEN THERE WAS ONE!"
WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK: THE SCHOOL HAD SEEMED A LATTER-DAY TOWER OF BABEL AT FIRST -- BUT A TELEPATHIC CRASH COURSE IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE HAD CLOSED THE COMMUNICATION GAP IN MERE MINUTES.
NOW PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER SITS, SOMBERLY STUDYING HIS COLORFULLY-COSTUMED HOUSE-GUESTS --
--AND WHATEVER THOUGHTS HE MIGHT HAVE AT THIS POINT ARE HIS ALONE TO KNOW.
IN ALL MY LIFE, SUCH CLOTHING AS THIS I HAVE NEVER SEEN!
THE COSTUME IS BEAUTIFUL, AND THE FIT--PERFECT! BUT HOW DID YOU...?
THE UNIFORMS ARE CONSTRUCTED FROM UNSTABLE MOLECULES, WHICH ADJUST THEMSELVES WHERE NECESSARY.
I OBTAINED THEM FROM A MAN NAMED REED RICHARDS, AND I'M CERTAIN YOU'LL LEARN MORE OF HIM AND HIS FRIENDS LATER.
BUT RIGHT NOW...

RIGHT NOW YOU WILL TELL US WHY YOU DRAGGED US HERE, PROFESSOR!
I, FOR ONE, AM SWIFTLY LOSING MY PATIENCE!
SUNFIRE, PLEASE--

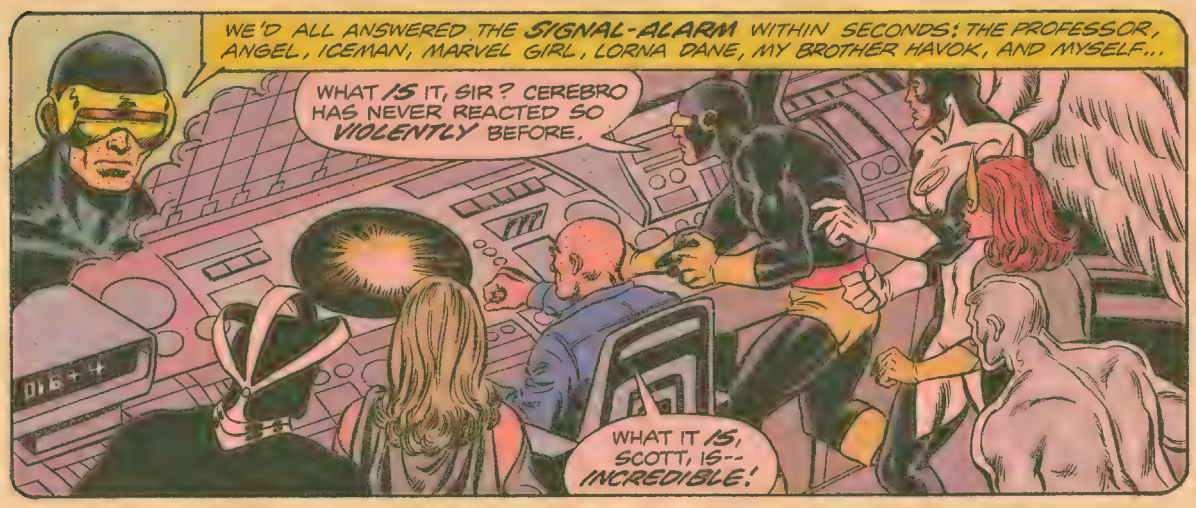
--IT WAS NOT MY INTENTION TO WASTE YOUR TIME.
I'VE MERELY AWAITED THE ARRIVAL OF ONE WHO CAN EXPLAIN THE SITUATION FAR BETTER THAN I.


MY FRIENDS, ALLOW ME TO PRESENT SCOTT SUMMERS--
--THE MAN CALLED CYCLOPS!
HE WILL FILL YOU IN ON THE DETAILS.


THE "DETAILS", PEOPLE, ARE DEPRESSINGLY SIMPLE!
YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED HERE BECAUSE-- THE X-MEN HAVE DISAPPEARED!

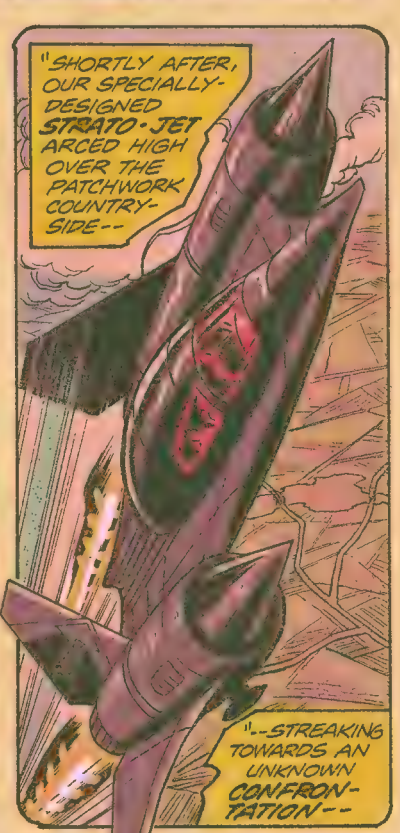
YOU SEVEN ARE OUR ONLY HOPE OF... BUT I'M GETTING AHEAD OF MYSELF.
COME ON. I MAY AS WELL SHOW YOU WHERE IT ALL BEGAN!

THIS IS CEREBRO, OUR SPECIALLY-DESIGNED MUTANT-DETECTOR!
IT'S THRU THIS MECHANISM THAT WE DISCOVERED ALL OF YOU--
--AND LOST MY CLOSEST FRIENDS!

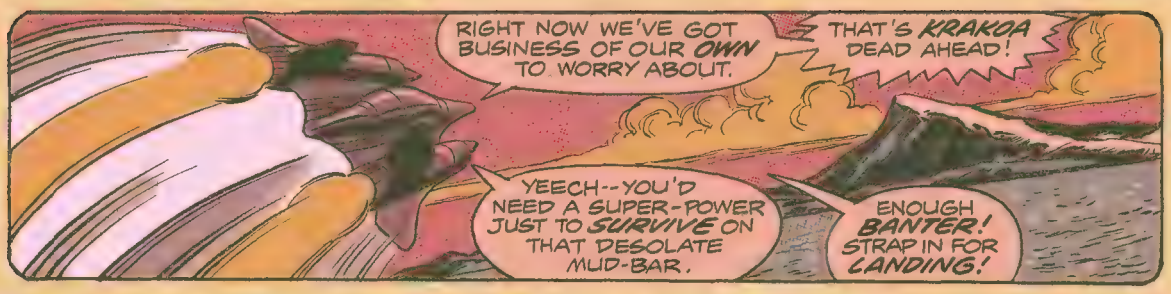

WE'D ALL ANSWERED THE SIGNAL-ALARM WITHIN SECONDS: THE PROFESSOR, ANGEL, ICEMAN, MARVEL GIRL, LORNA DANE, MY BROTHER HAVOK, AND MYSELF...
WHAT IS IT, SIR? CEREBRO HAS NEVER REACTED SO VIOLENTLY BEFORE.
WHAT IT IS, SCOTT, IS--INCREDIBLE!

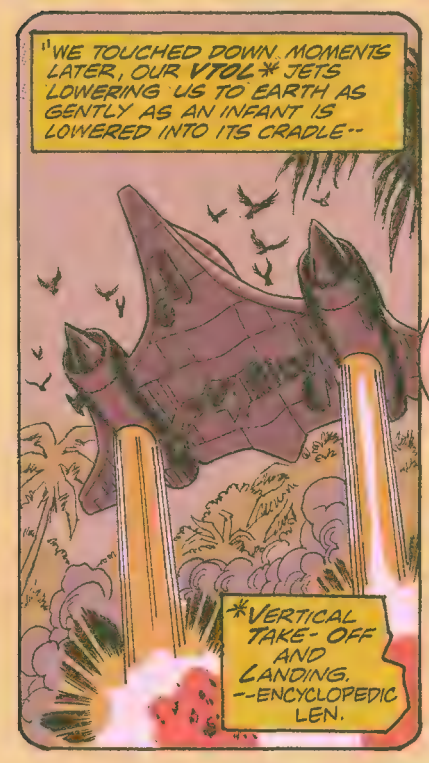
APPARENTLY, CEREBRO HAS DETECTED A NEW MUTANT ON THE ISLAND OF KRAKOA IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC--
--A MUTANT SO POWERFUL AS TO DEFY CLASSIFICATION!
IT SEEMS YOU ALL HAVE WORK TO DO, SCOTT...

FIND THAT MUTANT--QUICKLY--BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE FINDS HIM FIRST!
YOU HEARD THE PROFESSOR, X-MEN--IT'S TRAVELIN' TIME!


"SHORTLY AFTER, OUR SPECIALLY-DESIGNED STRATO-JET ARCED HIGH OVER THE PATCHWORK COUNTRYSIDE--
"--STREAKING TOWARDS AN UNKNOWN CONFRONTATION--

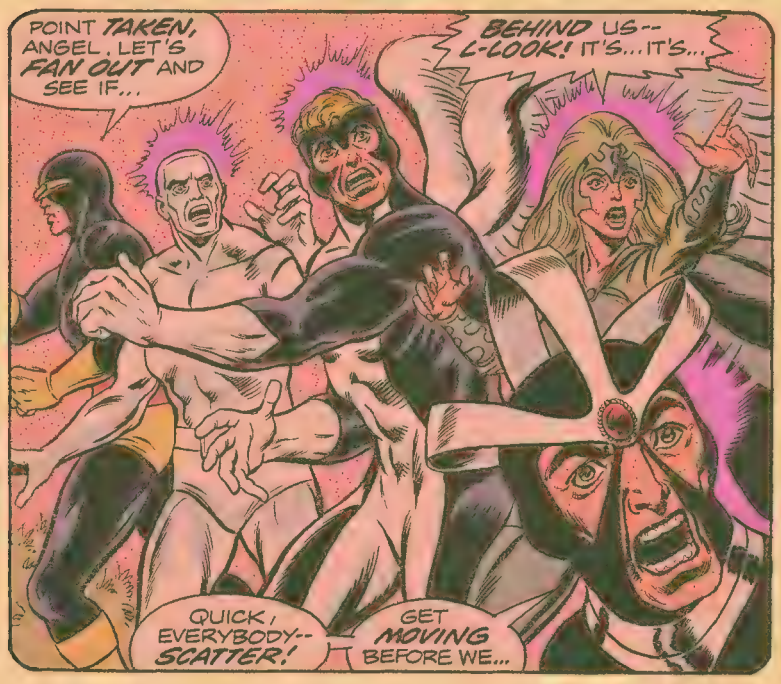
"--BUT AT THAT MOMENT, OUR MINDS WERE ON OTHER THINGS.
WISH WE COULD'VE CONTACTED THE BEAST! HANK McCOY'S DEXTEROUS DIGITS MIGHT BE--EH--HANDY ON A JOB LIKE THIS.
HANK GRADUATED THE X-MEN, JEAN, IF HE HASN'T GOT TIME FOR US NOW, THAT'S HIS BUSINESS.

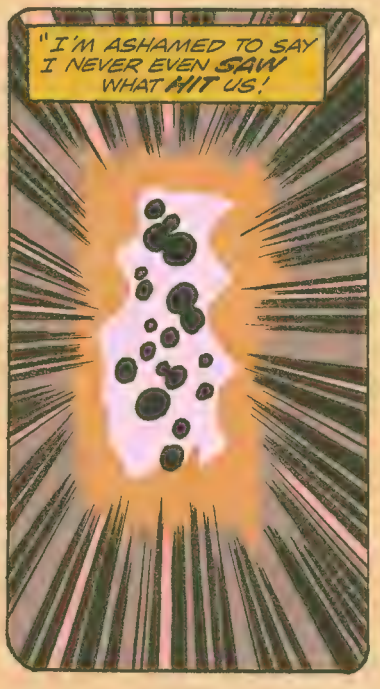

RIGHT NOW WE'VE GOT BUSINESS OF OUR OWN TO WORRY ABOUT.
THAT'S KRAKOA DEAD AHEAD!
YEECH--YOU'D NEED A SUPER-POWER JUST TO SURVIVE ON THAT DESOLATE MUD-BAR.
ENOUGH BANTER! STRAP IN FOR LANDING!

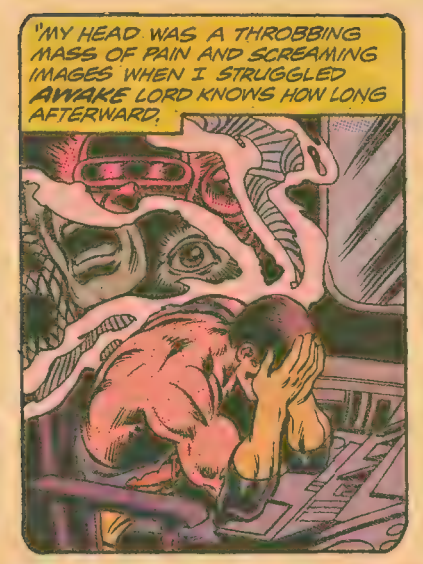

"WE TOUCHED DOWN, MOMENTS LATER, OUR VTOL* JETS LOWERING US TO EARTH AS GENTLY AS AN INFANT IS LOWERED INTO ITS CRADLE--
*VERTICAL TAKE-OFF AND LANDING. --ENCYCLOPEDIC LEN.

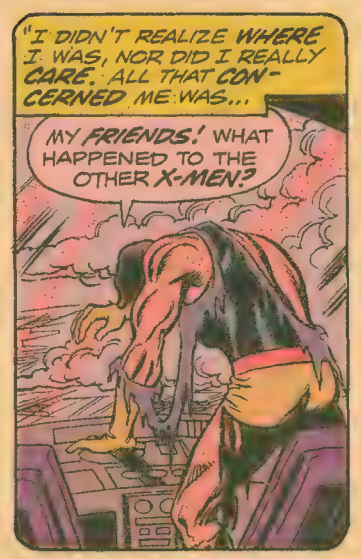
"--BUT WE WERE NOT INFANTS--AND THIS WAS DEFINITELY NO CHILD'S GAME!
I THINK WE TOOK THE WRONG BUS, GANG. THIS PLACE SURE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE CLEVELAND.
ALL THE INSECTS IN THE AIR-- THE OVERGROWN JUNGLE--!
ON SECOND THOUGHT, MAYBE THIS IS CLEVELAND.

I TOLD YOU BEFORE, ICEMAN--SHELVE THE SNAPPY PATTER!
WE HAVE A DIFFICULT JOB AHEAD OF US, FINDING THAT NEW MUTANT--!
MAYBE AN IMPOSSIBLE ONE, CYKE--WHEN YOU CONSIDER WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR!


POINT TAKEN, ANGEL. LET'S FAN OUT AND SEE IF...
BEHIND US-- L-LOOK! IT'S...IT'S...
QUICK, EVERYBODY-- SCATTER!
GET MOVING BEFORE WE...

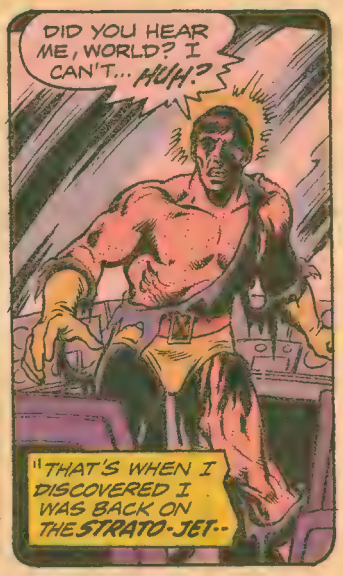

"I'M ASHAMED TO SAY I NEVER EVEN SAW WHAT HIT US!


"MY HEAD WAS A THROBBING MASS OF PAIN AND SCREAMING IMAGES WHEN I STRUGGLED AWAKE LORD KNOWS HOW LONG AFTERWARD.

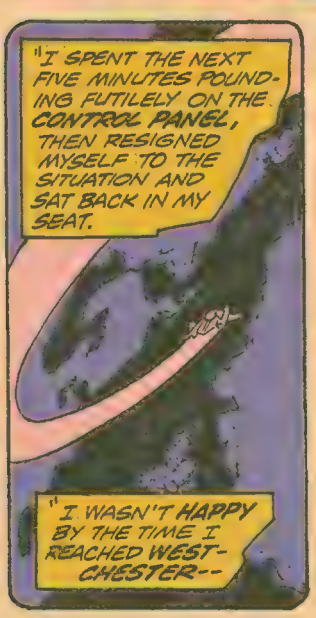

"I DIDN'T REALIZE WHERE I WAS, NOR DID I REALLY CARE. ALL THAT CONCERNED ME WAS...
MY FRIENDS! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHER X-MEN?

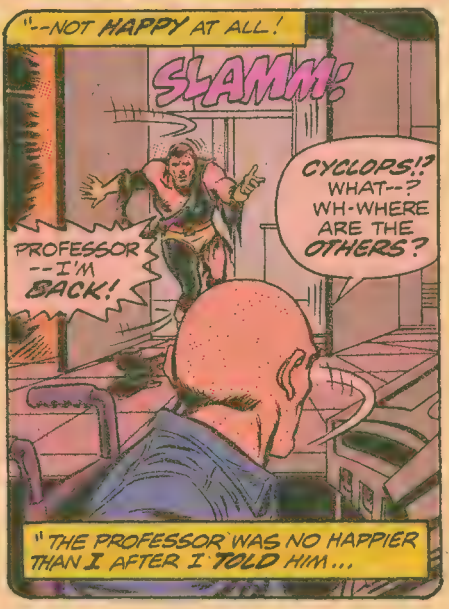
"AND WORSE, WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO ME?
MY EYES! DEAR HEAVEN, MY EYES--!!
THEY'RE UNCOVERED! THEY'RE...

THEY'RE... NORMAL... POWERLESS!
HOWEVER HARD I TRY, I CAN'T PROJECT MY OPTIC BLASTS!


DID YOU HEAR ME, WORLD? I CAN'T... HUH?
"THAT'S WHEN I DISCOVERED I WAS BACK ON THE STRATO-JET--

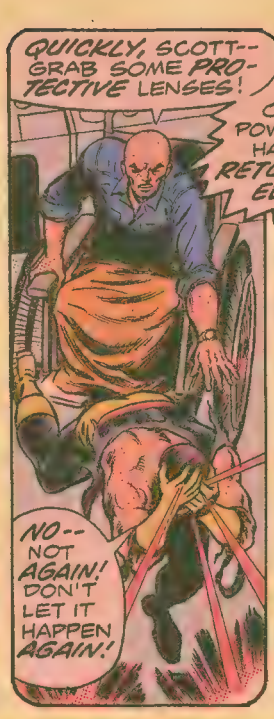
"--AND I WASN'T IN CONTROL!
AUTOMATIC PILOT IS JAMMED! CAN'T TURN THIS CRATE BACK TO THE ISLAND--!


"I SPENT THE NEXT FIVE MINUTES POUNDING FUTILELY ON THE CONTROL PANEL, THEN RESIGNED MYSELF TO THE SITUATION AND SAT BACK IN MY SEAT.
"I WASN'T HAPPY BY THE TIME I REACHED WESTCHESTER--

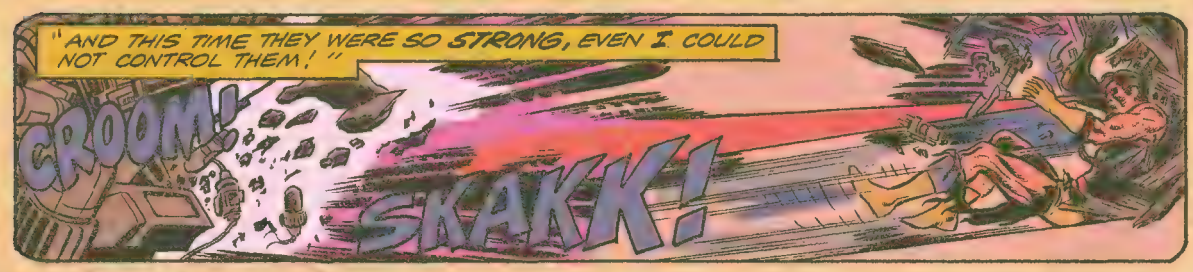

"--NOT HAPPY AT ALL!
SLAMM!
PROFESSOR --I'M BACK!
CYCLOPS!? WHAT--? WH-WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?
"THE PROFESSOR WAS NO HAPPIER THAN I AFTER I TOLD HIM...

DO YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THE OTHER X-MEN ARE STILL ON THAT ISLAND--
--AND YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THEM?
I KNOW NOTHING, PROFESSOR--EXCEPT THAT SOMETHING ON KRAKOA CURED MY EYES AND DEPOSITED ME BACK IN THAT...

HUH? WHAT IS IT, PROFESSOR? WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?
YOUR EYES, SCOTT-- THEY'RE GLOWING AGAIN--?


QUICKLY, SCOTT-- GRAB SOME PROTECTIVE LENSES!
YOUR OPTIC POWERS HAVE RETURNED!
NO-- NOT AGAIN! DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN!

"BUT I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO EVEN ASK!
"THE OPTIC ENERGIES THAT HAD CURSED ME SINCE MY EARLY TEENS WERE BACK AGAIN--
"--WITH A VENGEANCE!


"AND THIS TIME THEY WERE SO STRONG, EVEN I COULD NOT CONTROL THEM!"
CROOM!
SKAKK!

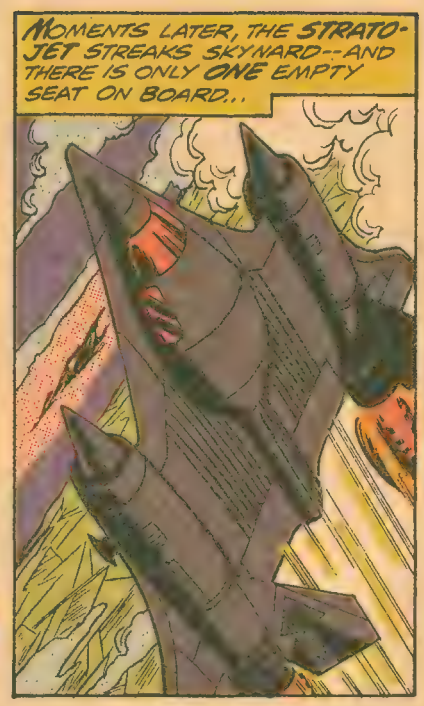
THE PROFESSOR MODIFIED ONE OF MY OLD VISORS TO CONTAIN MY INCREASED POWER--
--THEN LEFT ME HERE TO RETRAIN MYSELF WHILE HE WENT IN SEARCH OF YOU!

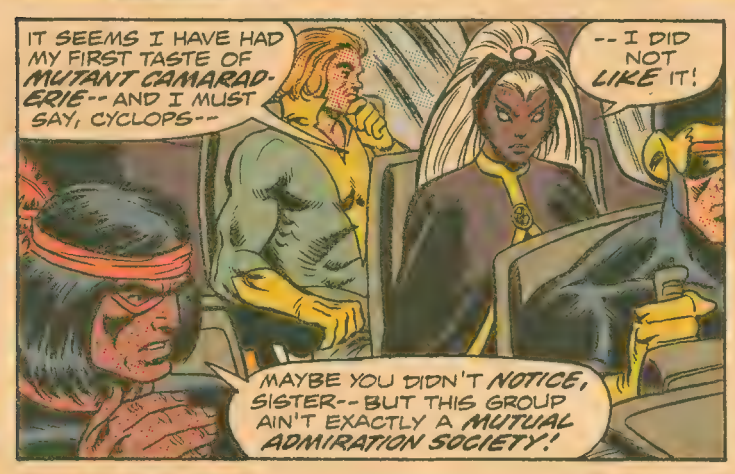
AND HE FOUND US! SO NOW WHAT?
SO NOW WE GO BACK TO KRAKOA TO FIND THE ORIGINAL X-MEN--
--AND THE MUTANT THAT DEFEATED US!

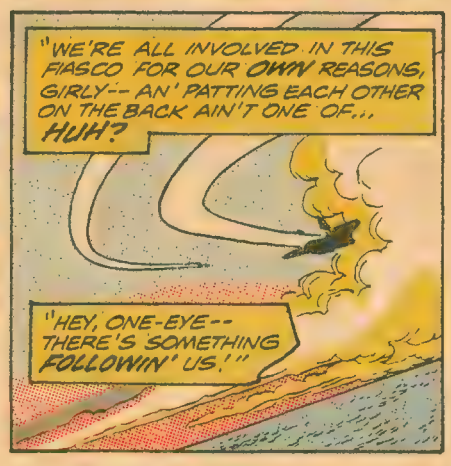
INCORRECT, CYCLOPS! NOW YOU GO BACK TO KRAKOA-- NOT I!
I WILL HAVE NO PART IN THIS FOOL'S ERRAND!
WHAT--?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, SUNFIRE-- WE OFFER YOU A CHANCE TO HELP YOUR FELLOW MUTANTS AND...
I DO NOT EVEN LIKE MY FELLOW MUTANTS, CYCLOPS!
I CERTAINLY WILL NOT RISK MY LIFE TO HELP THEM!

I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU, SUNFIRE-- BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE ARGUING!
THE REST OF US HAVE A JOB TO DO-- AND WE'RE GOING TO DO IT!

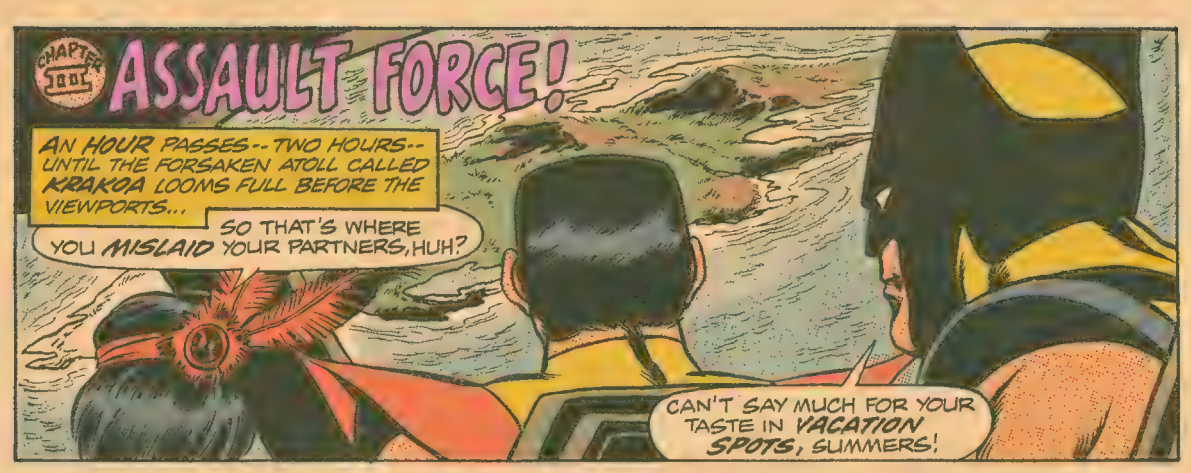

MOMENTS LATER, THE STRATO-JET STREAKS SKYWARD-- AND THERE IS ONLY ONE EMPTY SEAT ON BOARD...

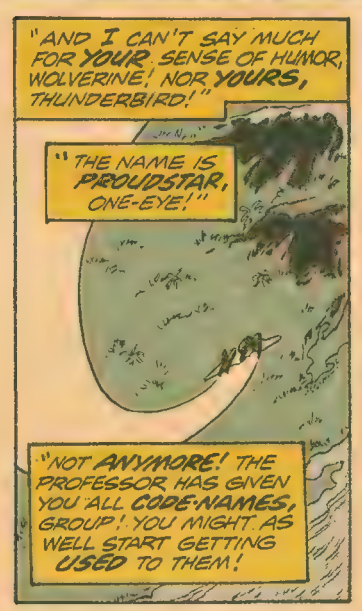

IT SEEMS I HAVE HAD MY FIRST TASTE OF MUTANT CAMARADERIE-- AND I MUST SAY, CYCLOPS--
-- I DID NOT LIKE IT!
MAYBE YOU DIDN'T NOTICE, SISTER-- BUT THIS GROUP AIN'T EXACTLY A MUTUAL ADMIRATION SOCIETY!

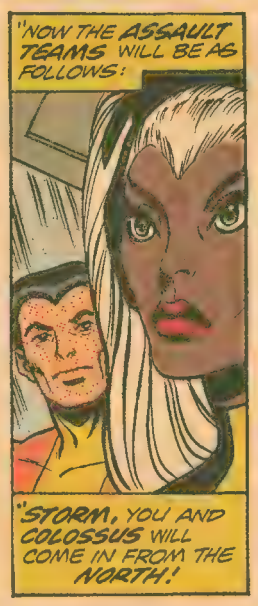

"WE'RE ALL INVOLVED IN THIS FIASCO FOR OUR OWN REASONS, GIRLY-- AN' PATTING EACH OTHER ON THE BACK AIN'T ONE OF... HUH?
"HEY, ONE-EYE-- THERE'S SOMETHING FOLLOWIN' US!"

"I SEE IT, GERONIMO! IT'S..."
"WELL, I'LL BE JIGGERED, ONE-EYE-- THE JAP!"
ARE YOU GOING TO OPEN THE HATCH, CYCLOPS--
OR DO YOU EXPECT ME TO FLY ALL THE WAY TO KRAKOA BY MYSELF?

SO-- THE PRODIGAL MUTANT RETURNS! WHY DID YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, SUNFIRE-- AFRAID TO GO HOME ALONE?
MY REASONS ARE NOBODY'S BUSINESS BUT MY OWN, MISFIT! YOU'D DO WELL TO REMEMBER THAT!

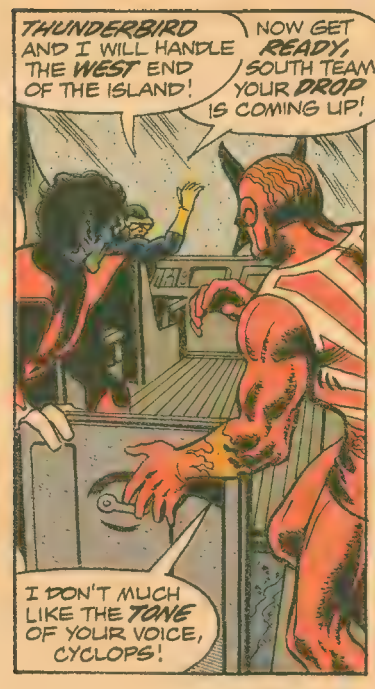

CHAPTER TOOL
ASSAULT FORCE!
AN HOUR PASSES--TWO HOURS--UNTIL THE FORSAKEN ATOLL CALLED KRAKOA LOOMS FULL BEFORE THE VIEWPORTS...
SO THAT'S WHERE YOU MISLAID YOUR PARTNERS, HUH?
CAN'T SAY MUCH FOR YOUR TASTE IN VACATION SPOTS, SUMMERS!

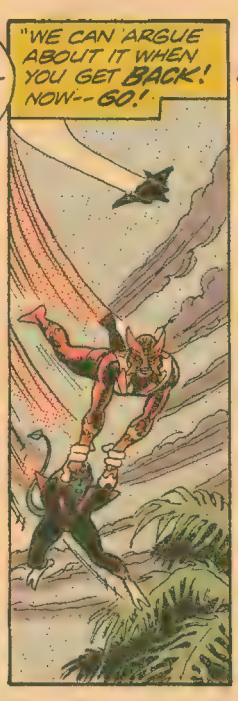

"AND I CAN'T SAY MUCH FOR YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR, WOLVERINE! NOR YOURS, THUNDERBIRD!"
"THE NAME IS PROUDSTAR, ONE-EYE!"
"NOT ANYMORE! THE PROFESSOR HAS GIVEN YOU ALL CODE-NAMES, GROUP! YOU MIGHT AS WELL START GETTING USED TO THEM!


"NOW THE ASSAULT TEAMS WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:
"STORM, YOU AND COLOSSUS WILL COME IN FROM THE NORTH!

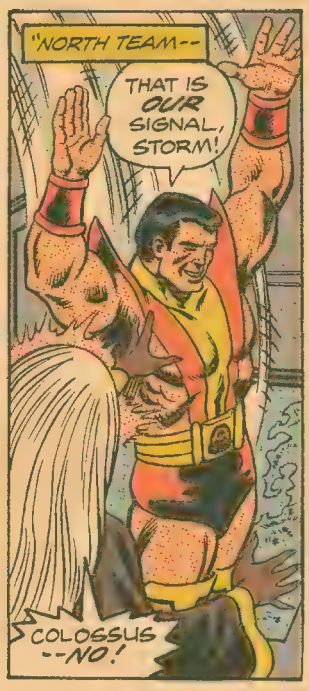
"BANSHEE AND THE WOLVERINE WILL MOVE ACROSS FROM THE EAST!
'TIS A PLEASURE TA BE WORKIN' WITH YE, LADDY.
WHOOPEE.

"SUNFIRE AND THE NIGHTCRAWLER WILL START SEARCHING FROM THE SOUTH!"
NO--NOT HIM!
I DID NOT HEAR CYCLOPS GIVING YOU A CHOICE, MAN.

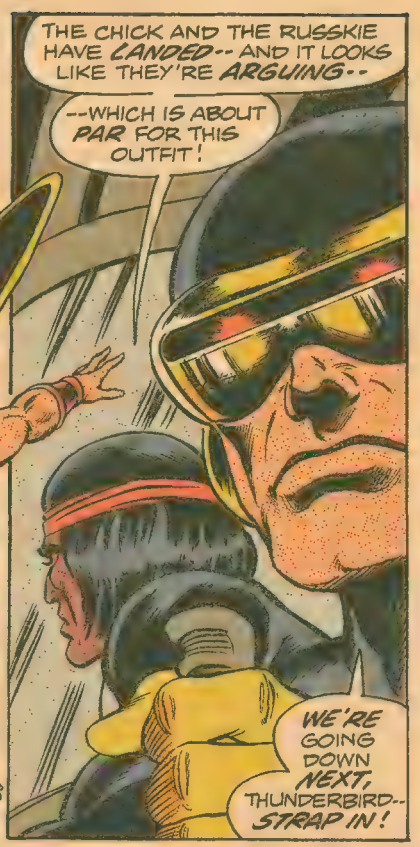

THUNDERBIRD AND I WILL HANDLE THE WEST END OF THE ISLAND!
NOW GET READY, SOUTH TEAM--YOUR DROP IS COMING UP!
I DON'T MUCH LIKE THE TONE OF YOUR VOICE, CYCLOPS!


"WE CAN ARGUE ABOUT IT WHEN YOU GET BACK! NOW--GO!

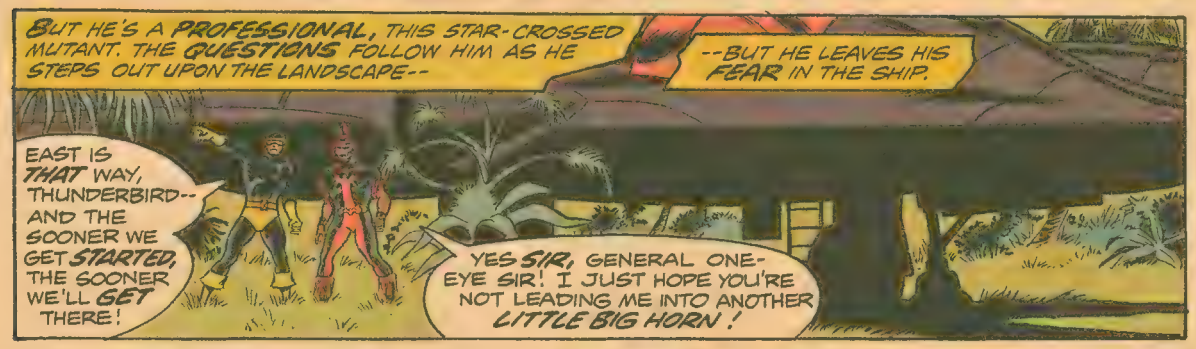
"EAST TEAM--GO!"
CRIPES! DO YOU HAVE TO SCREECH LIKE THAT?


"NORTH TEAM--
THAT IS OUR SIGNAL, STORM!
COLOSSUS--NO!

YOU FOOL-- YOU CANNOT FLY!
OF COURSE NOT--BUT I CAN LAND WITH THE BEST OF THEM!

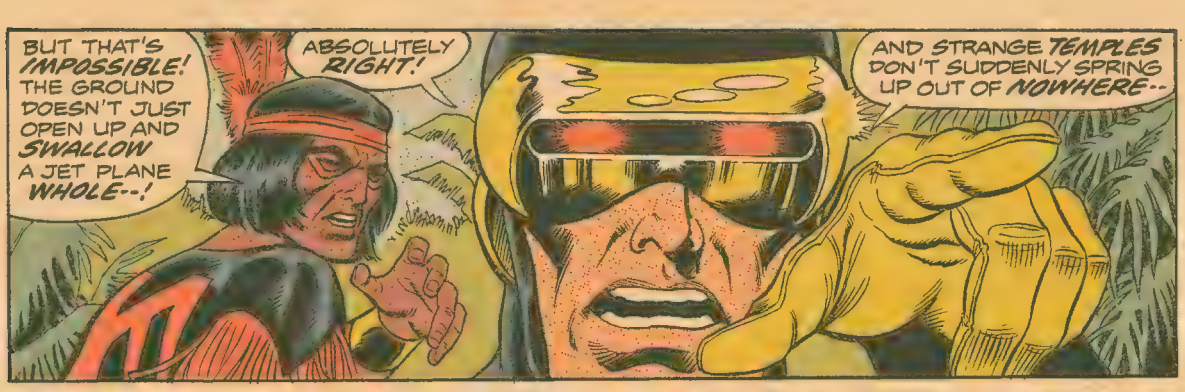

THE CHICK AND THE RUSSKIE HAVE CANDED-- AND IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE ARGUING--
--WHICH IS ABOUT PAR FOR THIS OUTFIT!
WE'RE GOING DOWN NEXT, THUNDERBIRD-- STRAP IN!

ONCE MORE, THE STRATO-JET'S VTOL SYSTEM LOWERS IT TO EARTH-- AND THOUGH HE TRIES, THE MAN CALLED CYCLOPS CANNOT SUPPRESS A SHUDDER.
HOW MANY MORE WILL WE LOSE THIS TIME, HE WONDERS MORBIDLY. WILL I EVEN LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO FIND OUT?


BUT HE'S A PROFESSIONAL, THIS STAR-CROSSED MUTANT. THE QUESTIONS FOLLOW HIM AS HE STEPS OUT UPON THE LANDSCAPE--
--BUT HE LEAVES HIS FEAR IN THE SHIP.
EAST IS THAT WAY, THUNDERBIRD-- AND THE SOONER WE GET STARTED, THE SOONER WE'LL GET THERE!
YES SIR, GENERAL ONE-EYE SIR! I JUST HOPE YOU'RE NOT LEADING ME INTO ANOTHER LITTLE BIG HORN!

IT'D BE JUST MY LUCK TO BE THE FIRST INDIAN TO GET MASSACREED BY...
HOLD IT! I LEFT THE MINI-CEREBRO UNIT BACK IN... HUH?
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
DON'T BELIEVE WHAT?

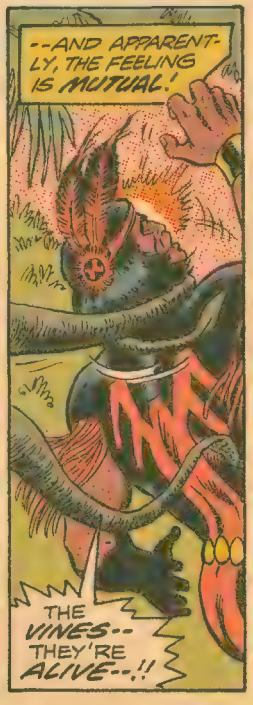
THE STRATO-JET--!
IT'S-- GONE!


BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THE GROUND DOESN'T JUST OPEN UP AND SWALLOW A JET PLANE WHOLE--!
ABSOLUTELY RIGHT!
AND STRANGE TEMPLES DON'T SUDDENLY SPRING UP OUT OF NOWHERE--

"--BUT ONE HAS!"
HUH? THAT JOINT WASN'T THERE WHEN WE LANDED!

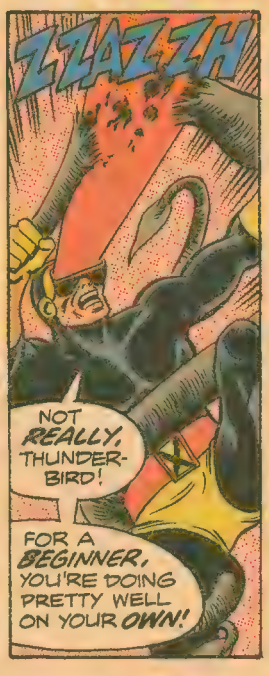
EXACTLY! AND SINCE IT SEEMS AS GOOD A SPOT AS ANY TO START SEARCHING--
LET'S GO!

GRUMBLING IN ANNOYANCE, THE MUTANT NOW RELUCTANTLY CALLED THUNDERBIRD FOLLOWS HIS CYCLOPEAN COMPANION INTO THE VERDANT UNDERBRUSH.
JOHN PROUDSTAR HAS NEVER MUCH LIKED THE JUNGLE--

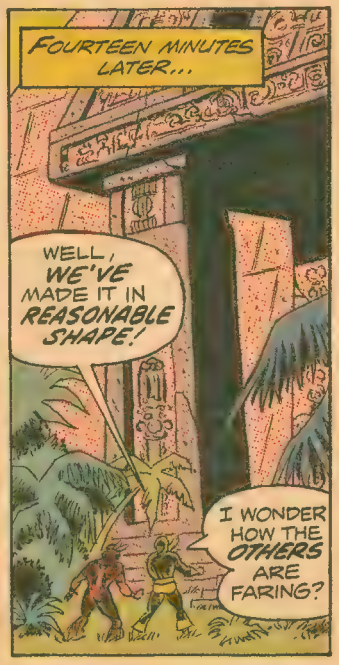

--AND APPARENTLY, THE FEELING IS MUTUAL!
THE VINES-- THEY'RE ALIVE--!!

A CONDITION WE WON'T SHARE MUCH LONGER--
--UNLESS WE DO SOMETHING-- FAST!

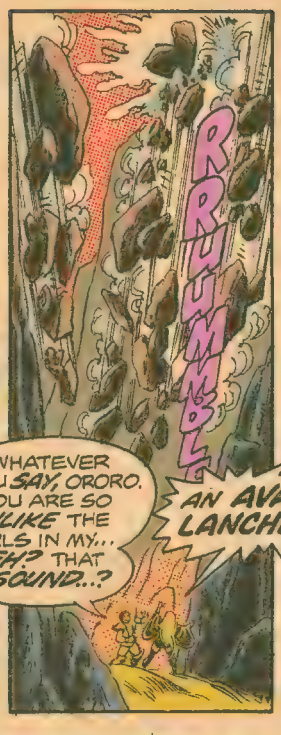
GOT ANY SUGGESTIONS IN PARTICULAR, ONE-EYE?
SKRAK


ZZAZZH
NOT REALLY, THUNDERBIRD!
FOR A BEGINNER, YOU'RE DOING PRETTY WELL ON YOUR OWN!

WITHIN MOMENTS, THE TWO YOUNG X-MEN HAVE LEFT THE STRANGLING CREEPER VINES FAR BEHIND THEM--
--AND IT IS NOT TERRIBLY DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHICH WAY THEY HAVE GONE.

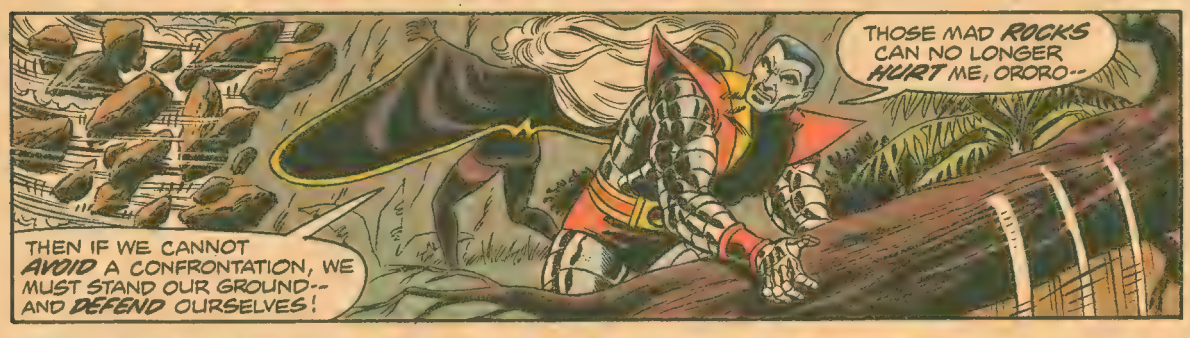

FOURTEEN MINUTES LATER...
WELL, WE'VE MADE IT IN REASONABLE SHAPE!
I WONDER HOW THE OTHERS ARE FARING?

WELL, MINUTES EARLIER ON THE ISLAND'S NORTH SIDE...
ODD--I DO NOT RECALL SEEING THAT TEMPLE BEFORE.
COME, COLOSSUS--LET US BEGIN OUR SEARCH THERE!

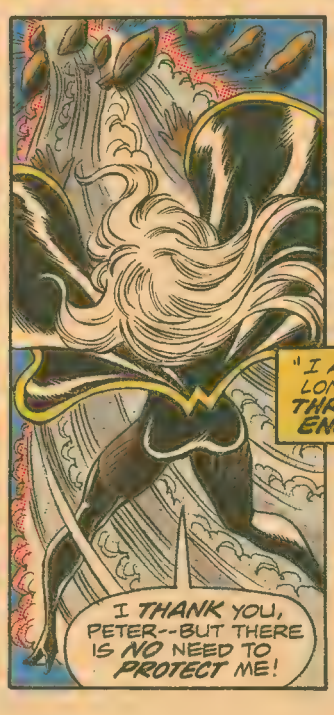

RRUMMBL
WHATEVER YOU SAY, ORORO. YOU ARE SO UNLIKE THE GIRLS IN MY... EH? THAT SOUND...?
AN AVA-LANCHE!

QUICKLY, COLOSSUS--PERHAPS WE CAN STILL OUTRUN IT!
IT HAS CHANGED ITS DIRECTION TO FOLLOW US!

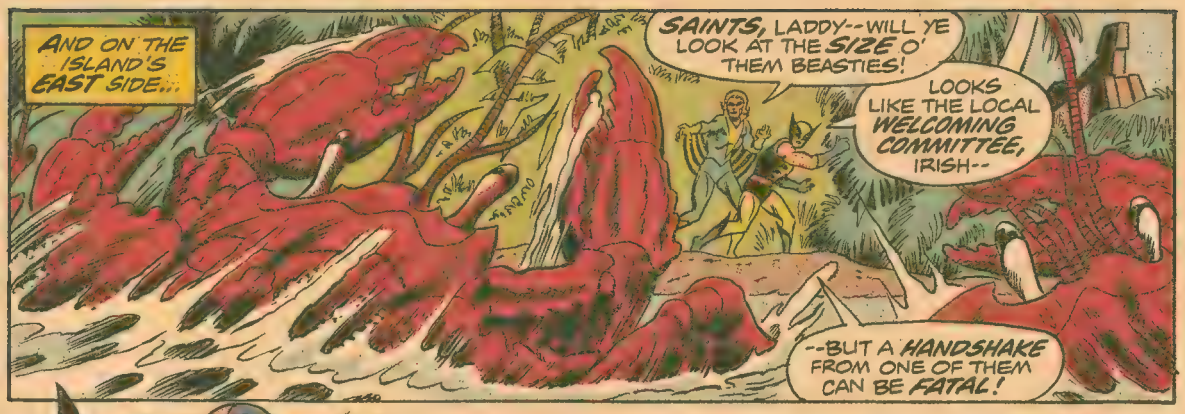
Не мóжет óыть!
THIS LANDSLIDE CANNOT BE OUTRUN, ORORO!

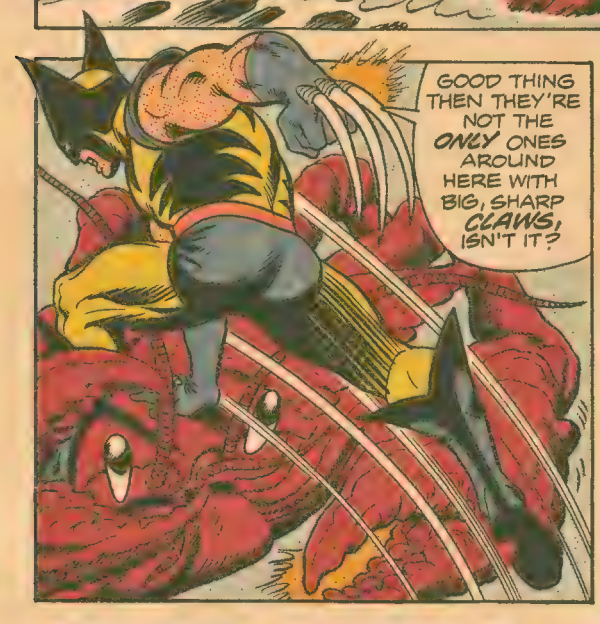

THOSE MAD ROCKS CAN NO LONGER HURT ME, ORORO--
THEN IF WE CANNOT AVOID A CONFRONTATION, WE MUST STAND OUR GROUND--AND DEFEND OURSELVES!

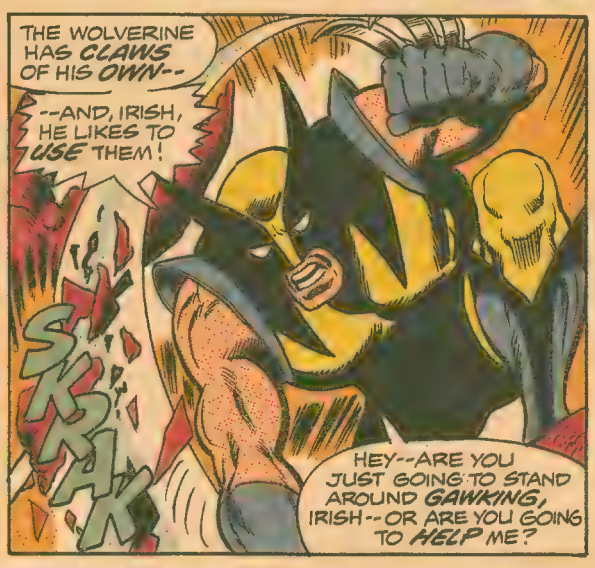
KWUMP!
--BUT FOR THREATENING YOU, I SHALL CRUSH THEM!

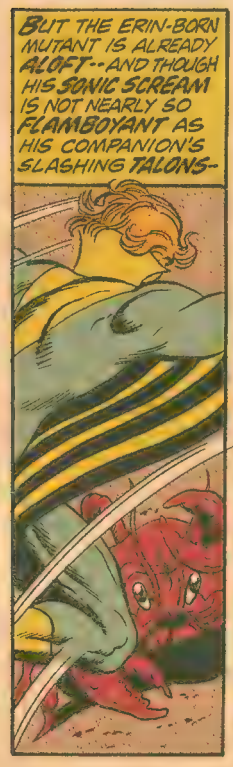

"I AM NO LONGER THREAT-ENED."
I THANK YOU, PETER--BUT THERE IS NO NEED TO PROTECT ME!

AND SHORTLY...
STORM... COLOSSUS... GLAD YOU MADE IT IN ONE PIECE.
BARELY, CYCLOPS ...JUST BARELY. I ONLY HOPE THE OTHERS ARRIVE SAFELY AS WELL.


AND ON THE ISLAND'S EAST SIDE...
SAINTS, LADDY--WILL YE LOOK AT THE SIZE O' THEM BEASTIES!
LOOKS LIKE THE LOCAL WELCOMING COMMITTEE, IRISH--
--BUT A HANDSHAKE FROM ONE OF THEM CAN BE FATAL!


GOOD THING THEN THEY'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES AROUND HERE WITH BIG, SHARP CLAWS, ISN'T IT?

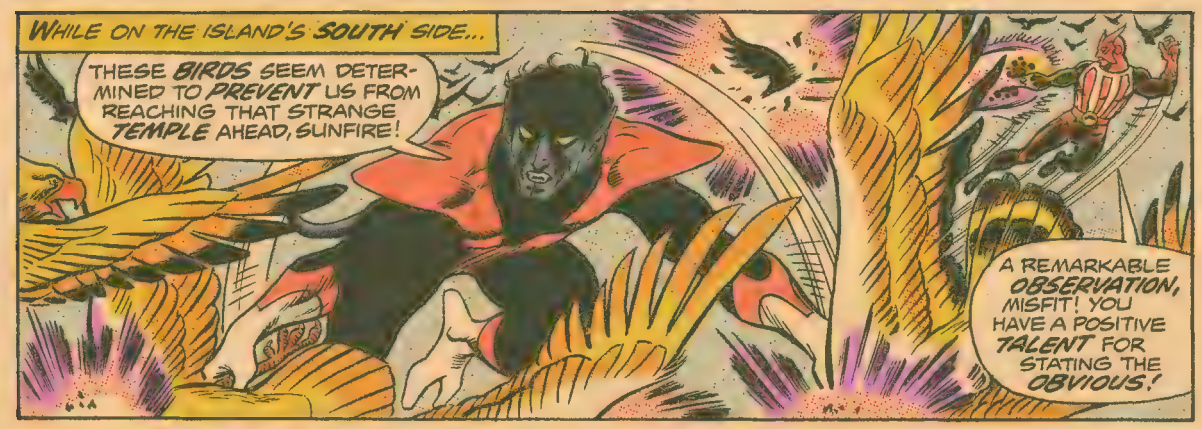

THE WOLVERINE HAS CLAWS OF HIS OWN--
--AND, IRISH, HE LIKES TO USE THEM!
SKRAK
HEY--ARE YOU JUST GOING TO STAND AROUND GAWKING, IRISH--OR ARE YOU GOING TO HELP ME?


BUT THE ERIN-BORN MUTANT IS ALREADY ALOFT--AND THOUGH HIS SONIC SCREAM IS NOT NEARLY SO FLAMBOYANT AS HIS COMPANION'S SLASHING TALONS-

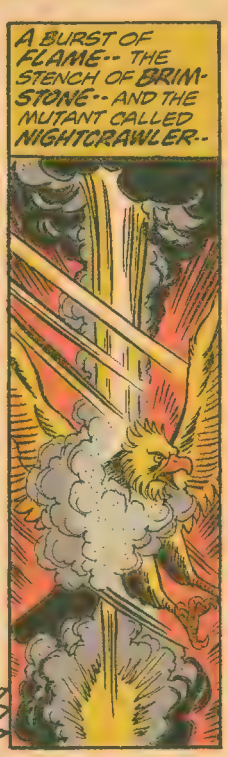
--IT IS NONETHELESS EQUALLY EFFECTIVE!
EEEEEEEE
SPRAKT!

THE BATTLE IS VIOLENT--BUT BRIEF!
WELL, LADDY--SURE'N IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE DONE FER THE BEASTIES! WE'D BEST BE GETTIN' ON TO THAT TEMPLE WE SPIED A TOUCH BACK.
YEAH. SURE. THERE'S NOTHING TO KEEP US HERE... ANY MORE.

AND SOON...
FAITH! 'TIS GOOD T' BE SEEIN' YE ALL AGAIN. 'TWAS A MOMENT THERE I HAD ME DOUBTS.
AND YOU WERE NOT ALONE.

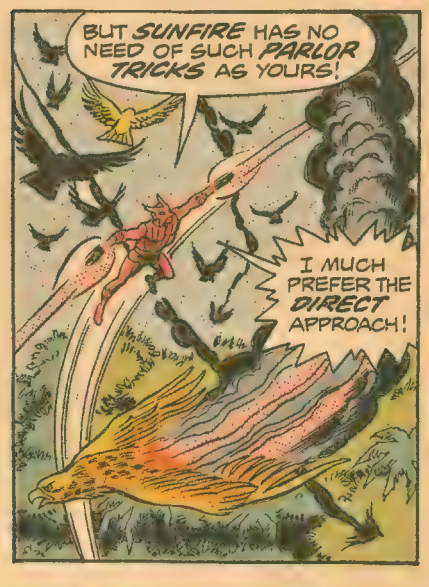

WHILE ON THE ISLAND'S SOUTH SIDE...
THESE BIRDS SEEM DETERMINED TO PREVENT US FROM REACHING THAT STRANGE TEMPLE AHEAD, SUNFIRE!
A REMARKABLE OBSERVATION, MISFIT! YOU HAVE A POSITIVE TALENT FOR STATING THE OBVIOUS!

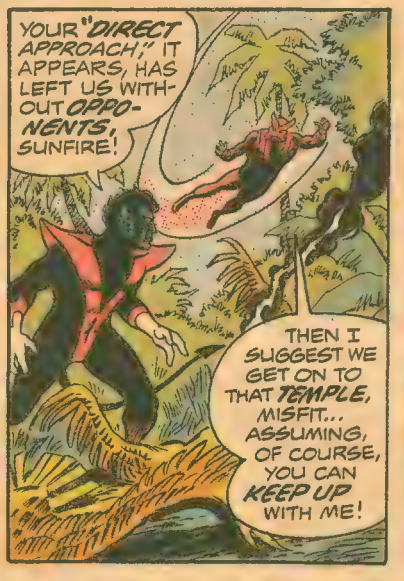
SKREEE
YOUR SARCASM IS UNCALLED FOR, SUNFIRE! I BEGIN TO THINK THE MUTANT COMMUNITY IS NO MORE HOSPITABLE THAN THE HUMAN... EH?
THAT BIRD--ABOUT TO RAKE ME WITH ITS TALONS--!


A BURST OF FLAME-- THE STENCH OF BRIMSTONE-- AND THE MUTANT CALLED NIGHTCRAWLER--

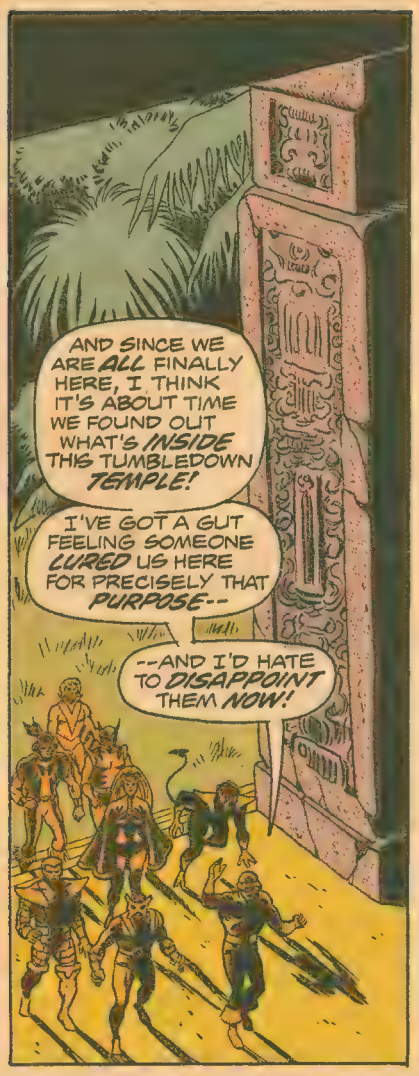
--IS SUDDENLY ELSEWHERE!
HIS LAUGH IS LITTLE MORE THAN A HIDEOUS HOWL!

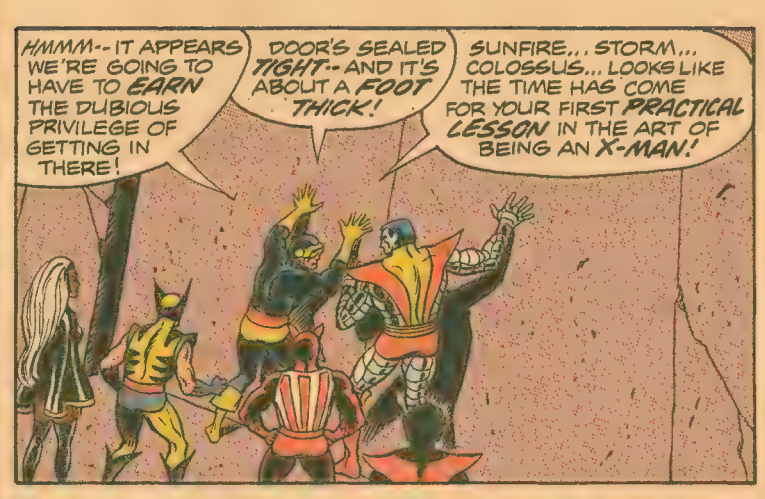
YOUR MANNER SEEMS MUCH LIKE THAT OF THE BEASTS YOU SO RESEMBLE, MISFIT!
HOW APPROPRIATE!

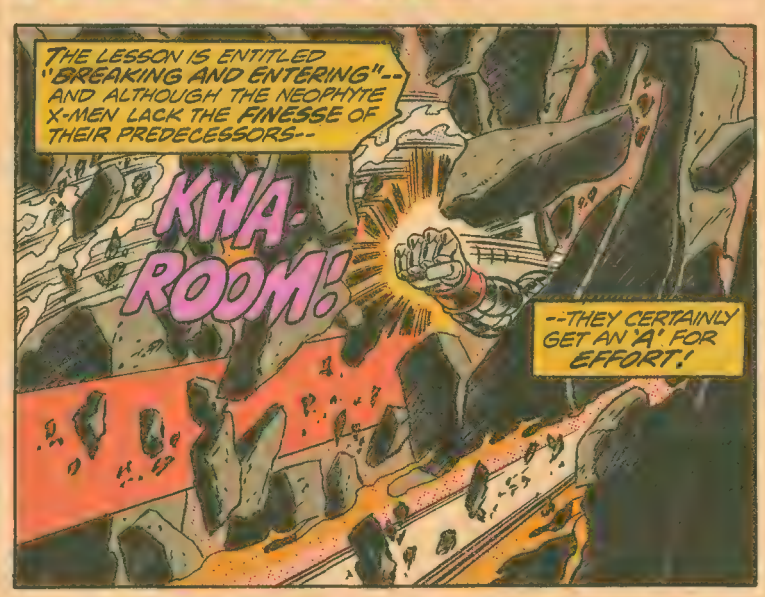

BUT SUNFIRE HAS NO NEED OF SUCH PARLOR TRICKS AS YOURS!
I MUCH PREFER THE DIRECT APPROACH!


YOUR "DIRECT APPROACH," IT APPEARS, HAS LEFT US WITHOUT OPPONENTS, SUNFIRE!
THEN I SUGGEST WE GET ON TO THAT TEMPLE, MISFIT... ASSUMING, OF COURSE, YOU CAN KEEP UP WITH ME!

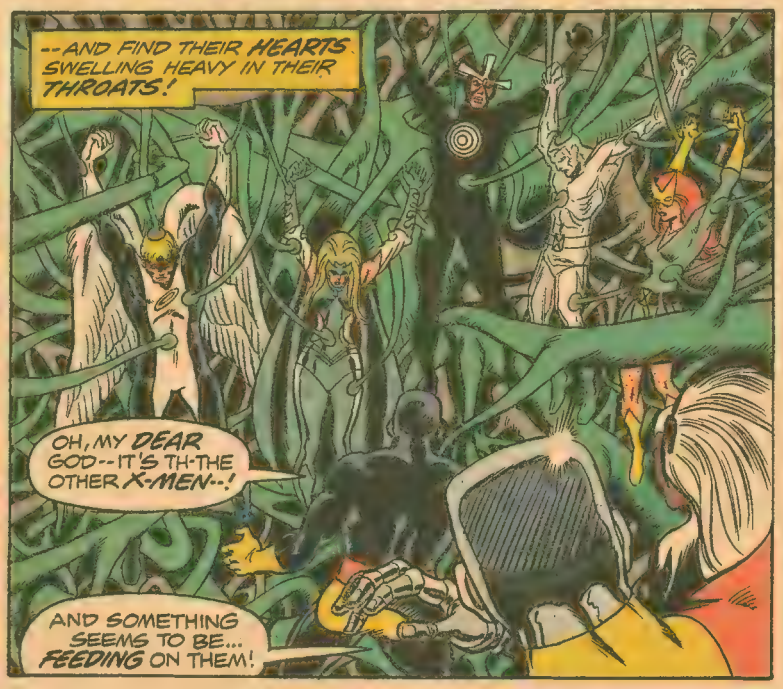
AND FINALLY...
CYCLOPS! HAVE WE KEPT YOU WAITING LONG?
NOT AT ALL! JUST GOT HERE OURSELVES!


AND SINCE WE ARE ALL FINALLY HERE, I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME WE FOUND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE THIS TUMBLEDOWN TEMPLE!
I'VE GOT A GUT FEELING SOMEONE LURED US HERE FOR PRECISELY THAT PURPOSE--
--AND I'D HATE TO DISAPPOINT THEM NOW!


HMMM--IT APPEARS WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO EARN THE DUBIOUS PRIVILEGE OF GETTING IN THERE!
DOOR'S SEALED TIGHT--AND IT'S ABOUT A FOOT THICK!
SUNFIRE... STORM... COLOSSUS... LOOKS LIKE THE TIME HAS COME FOR YOUR FIRST PRACTICAL LESSON IN THE ART OF BEING AN X-MAN!


THE LESSON IS ENTITLED "BREAKING AND ENTERING"--AND ALTHOUGH THE NEOPHYTE X-MEN LACK THE FINESSE OF THEIR PREDECESSORS--
KWA-ROOM!
--THEY CERTAINLY GET AN 'A' FOR EFFORT!

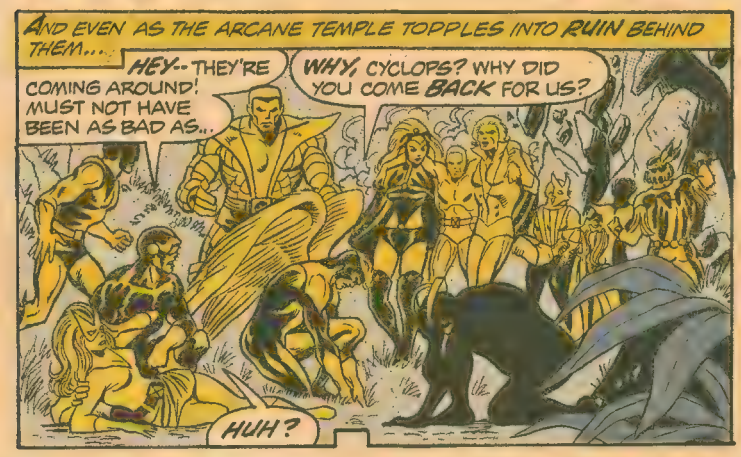
STILL SLIGHTLY ASTONISHED BY THEIR OWN ABILITIES, THE YOUNG MUTANTS STEP CAUTIOUSLY INTO THE STYGIAN DARKNESS--
OH...MY...GOD...


--AND FIND THEIR HEARTS SWELLING HEAVY IN THEIR THROATS!
OH, MY DEAR GOD--IT'S TH-THE OTHER X-MEN--!
AND SOMETHING SEEMS TO BE... FEEDING ON THEM!

WELL, DON'T JUST STAND THERE STARING AT THEM--!
IN PITY'S NAME-- SET THEM FREE!

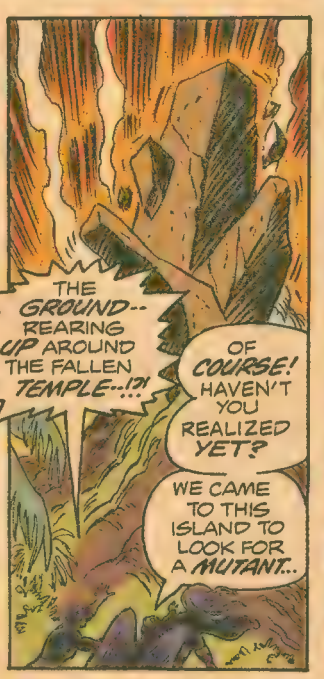
CRIPES! WHAT'S GOING ON? AS SOON AS WE PULLED THESE TUBES LOOSE--
--THE PLACE STARTED SHAKING ITSELF APART!
QUICKLY THEN--CARRY WHOEVER IS CLOSEST TO YOU--

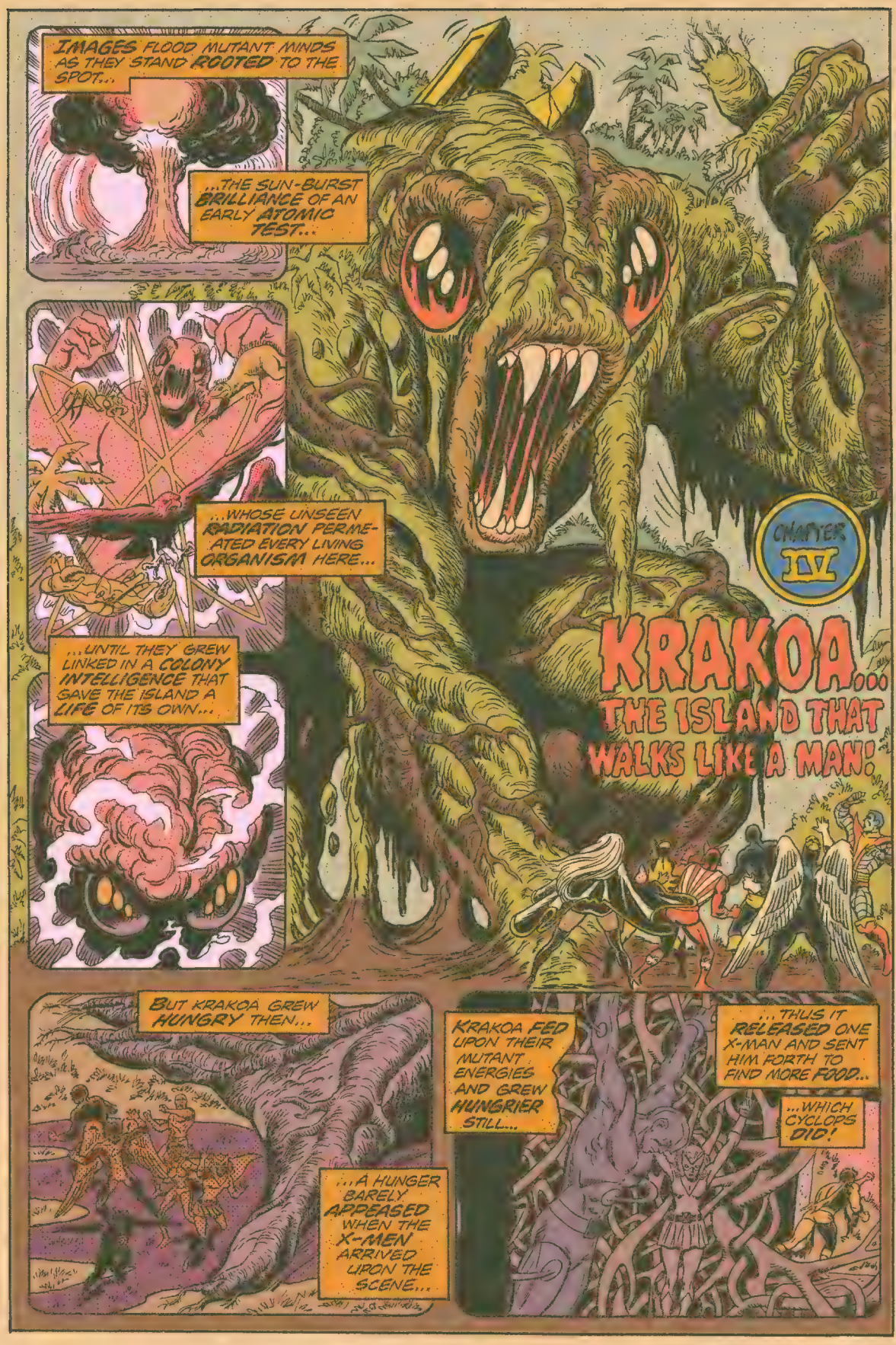
--AND LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THIS TEMPLE COMES DOWN AROUND OUR EARS!
KROOM!


AND EVEN AS THE ARCANE TEMPLE TOPPLES INTO RUIN BEHIND THEM...
HEY-- THEY'RE COMING AROUND! MUST NOT HAVE BEEN AS BAD AS...
WHY, CYCLOPS? WHY DID YOU COME BACK FOR US?
HUH?

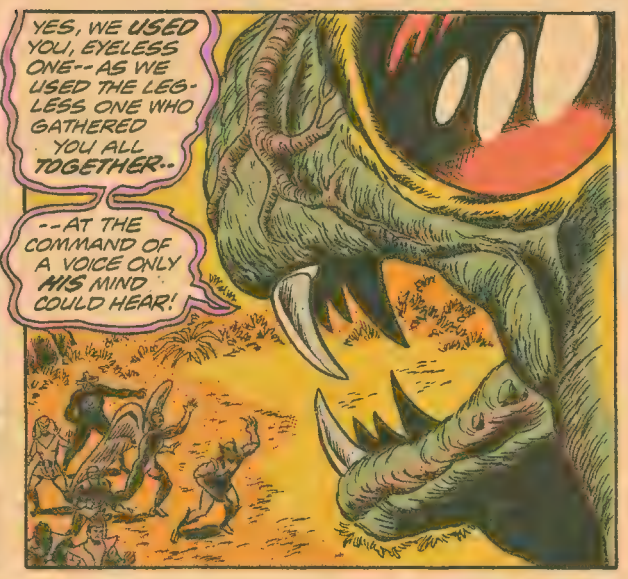
"--BUT THE MUTANT IS THE ISLAND ITSELF!"
KKRRAWWRR

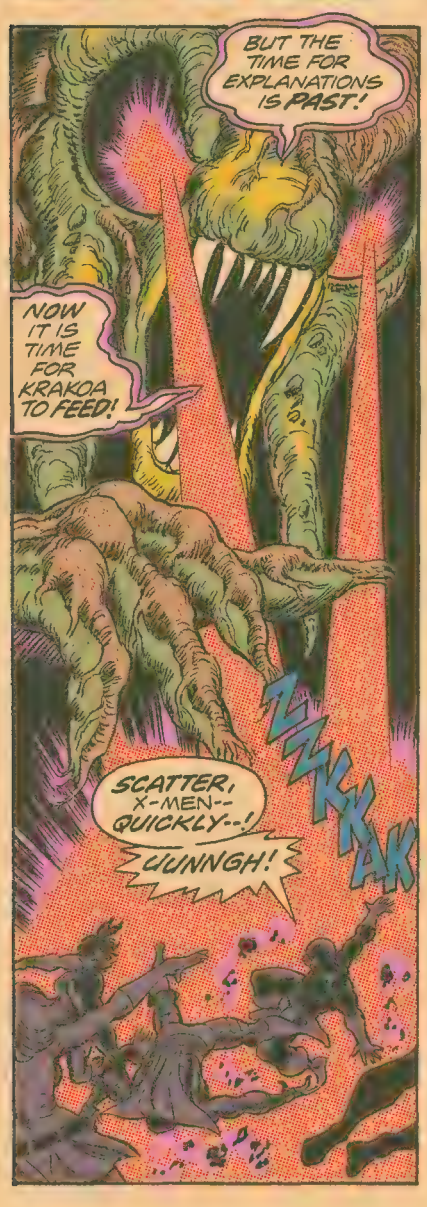
YOU FOOL-- DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND?
IT WANTED YOU TO COME BACK--AND BRING OTHERS WITH YOU! IT WAS ALL A TRAP-- AND NOW IT'S--
--TOO LATE!

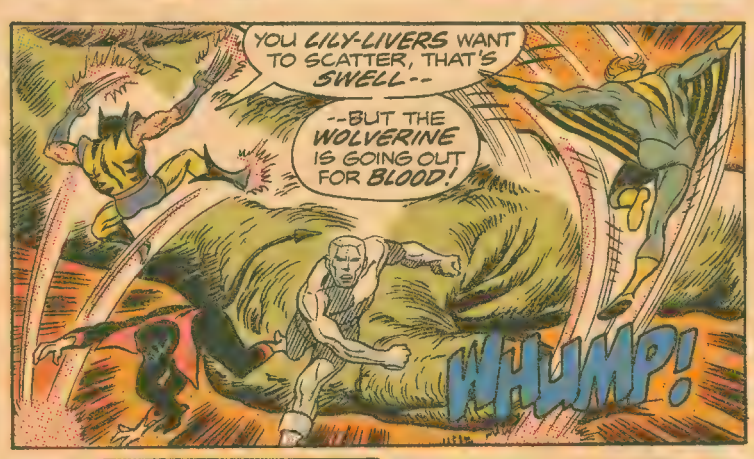

THE GROUND-- REARING UP AROUND THE FALLEN TEMPLE--!?!
OF COURSE! HAVEN'T YOU REALIZED YET?
WE CAME TO THIS ISLAND TO LOOK FOR A MUTANT...

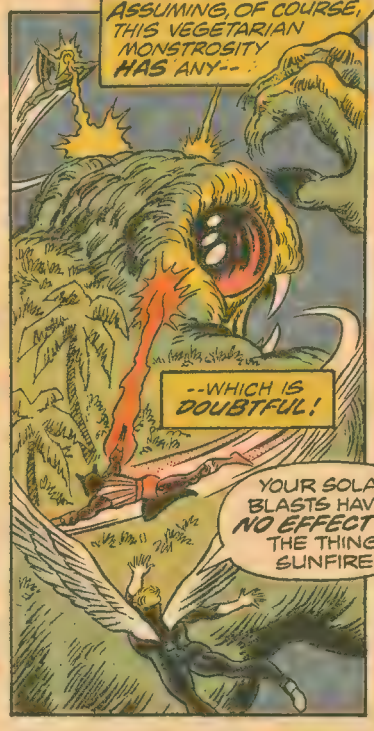

IMAGES FLOOD MUTANT MINDS AS THEY STAND ROOTED TO THE SPOT...
...THE SUN-BURST BRILLIANCE OF AN EARLY ATOMIC TEST...
...WHOSE UNSEEN RADIATION PERMEATED EVERY LIVING ORGANISM HERE...
...UNTIL THEY GREW LINKED IN A COLONY INTELLIGENCE THAT GAVE THE ISLAND A LIFE OF ITS OWN...
CHAPTER IV
KRAKOA... THE ISLAND THAT WALKS LIKE A MAN!
BUT KRAKOA GREW HUNGRY THEN...
...A HUNGER BARELY APPEASED WHEN THE X-MEN ARRIVED UPON THE SCENE...
KRAKOA FED UPON THEIR MUTANT ENERGIES AND GREW HUNGRIER STILL...
...THUS IT RELEASED ONE X-MAN AND SENT HIM FORTH TO FIND MORE FOOD...
...WHICH CYCLOPS DID!

... AND NOW WE WILL GO HUNGRY NO LONGER!
FILTHY MONSTER, YOU USED ME -- LIKE A LOUSY JUDAS GOAT LEADING LAMBS TO THE SLAUGHTER--!


YES, WE USED YOU, EYELESS ONE -- AS WE USED THE LEGLESS ONE WHO GATHERED YOU ALL TOGETHER--
--AT THE COMMAND OF A VOICE ONLY HIS MIND COULD HEAR!


BUT THE TIME FOR EXPLANATIONS IS PAST!
NOW IT IS TIME FOR KRAKOA TO FEED!
SCATTER, X-MEN -- QUICKLY--!
UUNNGH!
ZZKKAK


YOU LILY-LIVERS WANT TO SCATTER, THAT'S SWELL--
--BUT THE WOLVERINE IS GOING OUT FOR BLOOD!
WHUMP!


ASSUMING, OF COURSE, THIS VEGETARIAN MONSTROSITY HAS ANY--
--WHICH IS DOUBTFUL!
YOUR SOLAR BLASTS HAVE NO EFFECT ON THE THING, SUNFIRE!

NOR DO MY BOLTS OF LIGHTNING!
BUT WE MUST FIGHT ON -- WHATEVER THE RISK!

MERE WORDS COULD NEVER BEGIN TO DESCRIBE THE SHEER UNBRIDLED SAVAGERY OF THE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWS--

--SO WE WON'T EVEN ATTEMPT IT HERE!

SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT THE CONFLICT GOES WILDLY ON UNTIL...

SCOTT--STOP! YOU'RE GOING ABOUT THIS ALL WRONG!

HUH? PRO-FESSOR--!?!

I'VE BEEN MENTALLY MONITORING YOUR BATTLE THUS FAR--

--STUDYING THIS LIVING ISLAND--

--AND I BELIEVE I'VE DISCOVERED IT'S SOLE WEAK POINT!

NOW THIS IS MY PLAN...

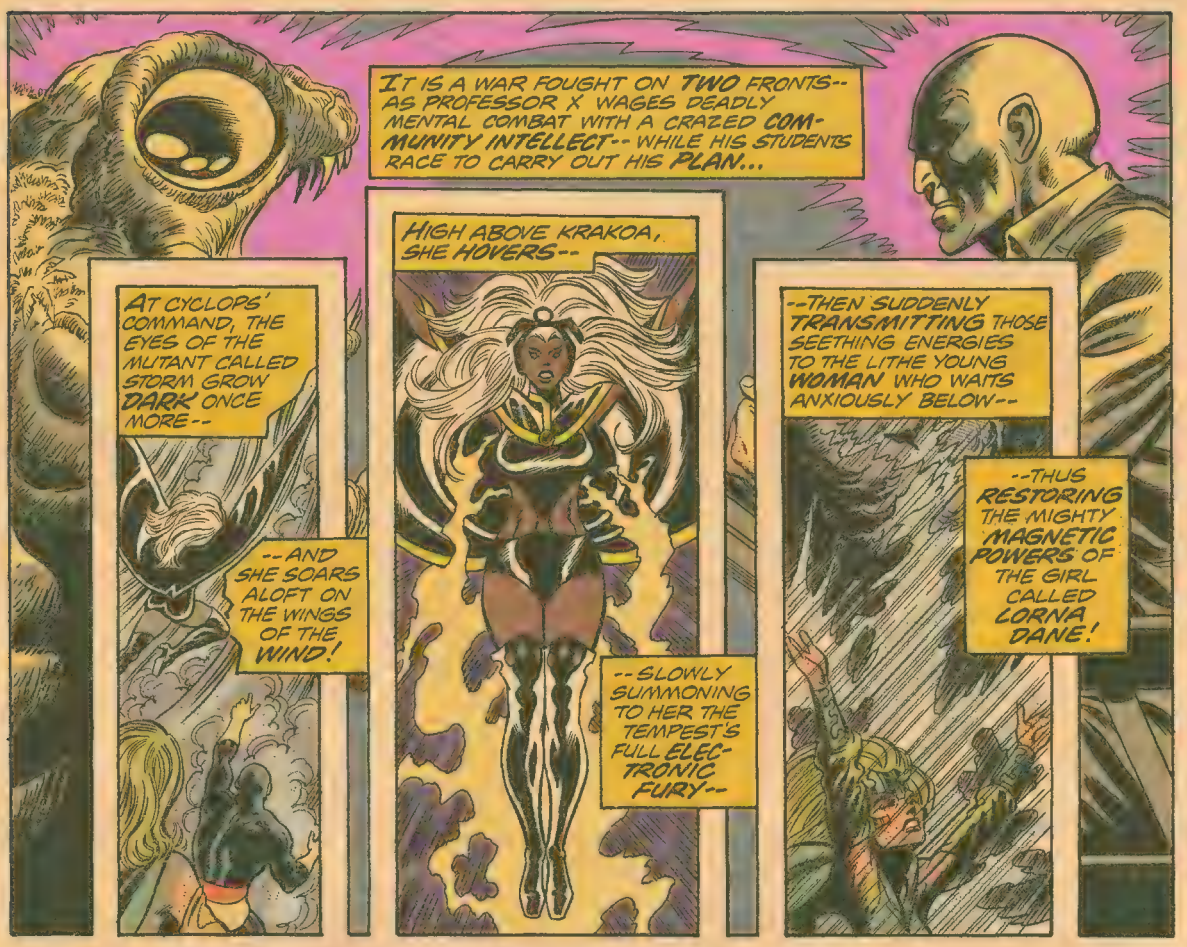
IN AN INSTANT, PRO-FESSOR CHARLES XAVIER'S MENTAL COMMANDS ARE PROJECTED HALFWAY AROUND A WORLD--

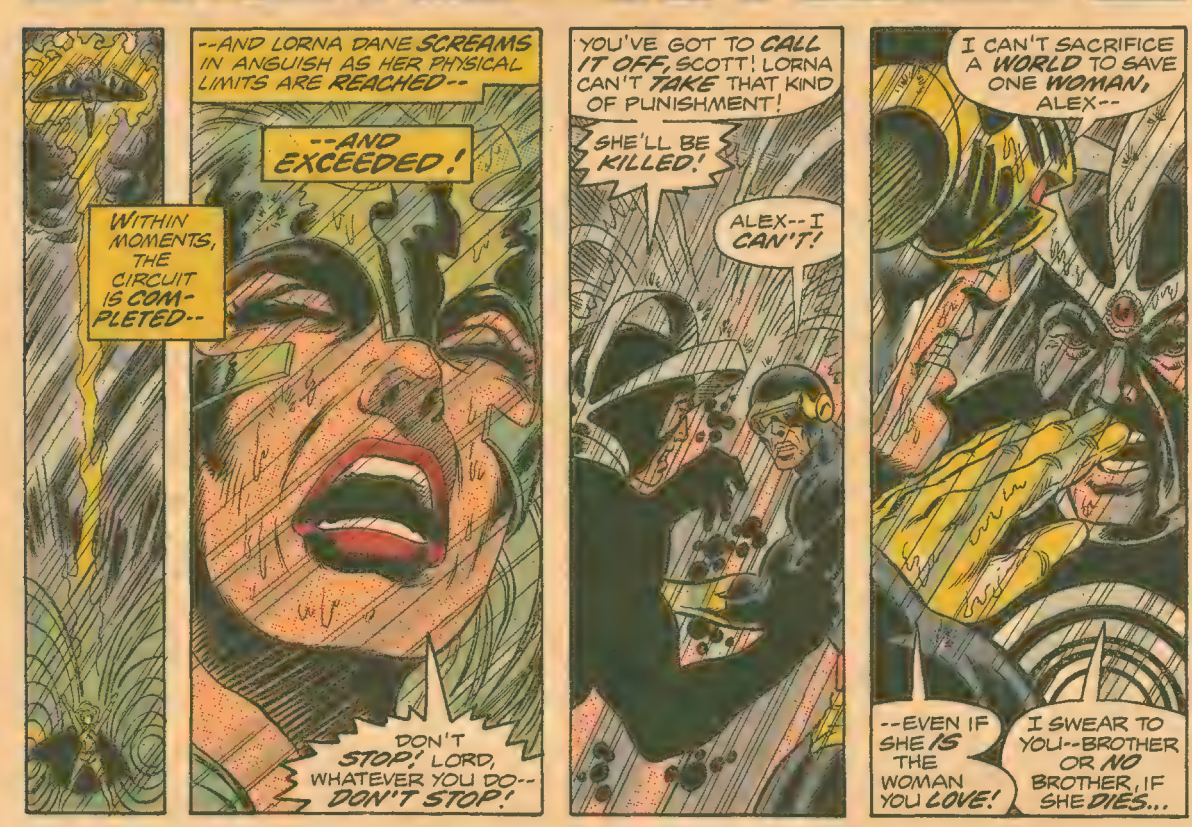
--THEN HE CLOSES HIS EYES--STEELS HIMSELF FOR THE COMING ORDEAL--

--CONCENTRATES--

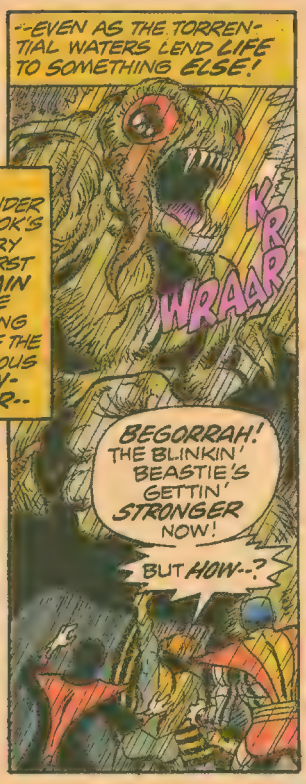
--AND THE BATTLE IS JOINED!

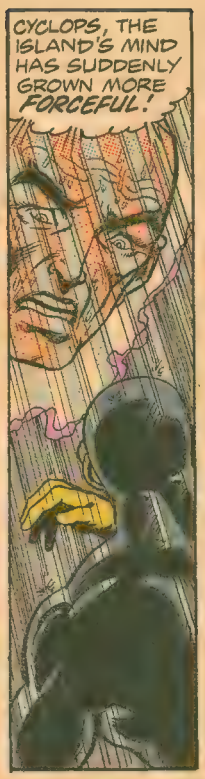
KKKRMMMRR

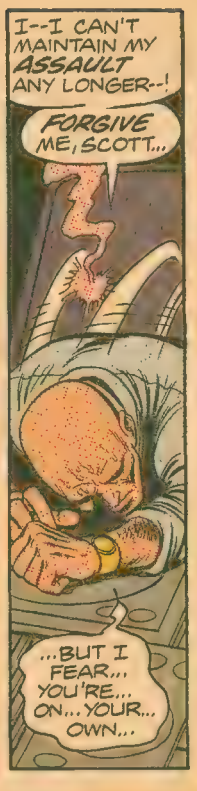

IT IS A WAR FOUGHT ON TWO FRONTS-- AS PROFESSOR X WAGES DEADLY MENTAL COMBAT WITH A CRAZED COMMUNITY INTELLECT-- WHILE HIS STUDENTS RACE TO CARRY OUT HIS PLAN...
AT CYCLOPS' COMMAND, THE EYES OF THE MUTANT CALLED STORM GROW DARK ONCE MORE--
--AND SHE SOARS ALOFT ON THE WINGS OF THE WIND!
HIGH ABOVE KRAKOA, SHE HOVERS--
--SLOWLY SUMMONING TO HER THE TEMPEST'S FULL ELECTRONIC FURY--
--THEN SUDDENLY TRANSMITTING THOSE SEETHING ENERGIES TO THE LITHE YOUNG WOMAN WHO WAITS ANXIOUSLY BELOW--
--THUS RESTORING THE MIGHTY MAGNETIC POWERS OF THE GIRL CALLED LORNA DANE!


WITHIN MOMENTS, THE CIRCUIT IS COMPLETED--
--AND LORNA DANE SCREAMS IN ANGUISH AS HER PHYSICAL LIMITS ARE REACHED--
--AND EXCEEDED!
DON'T STOP! LORD, WHATEVER YOU DO-- DON'T STOP!
YOU'VE GOT TO CALL IT OFF, SCOTT! LORNA CAN'T TAKE THAT KIND OF PUNISHMENT!
SHE'LL BE KILLED!
ALEX--I CAN'T!
I CAN'T SACRIFICE A WORLD TO SAVE ONE WOMAN, ALEX--
--EVEN IF SHE IS THE WOMAN YOU LOVE!
I SWEAR TO YOU--BROTHER OR NO BROTHER, IF SHE DIES...

THE REMAINDER OF HAVOK'S ANGRY OUTBURST IS SLAIN BY THE CRACKLING ROAR OF THE THUNDROUS DOWN-POUR--


--EVEN AS THE TORRENTIAL WATERS LEND LIFE TO SOMETHING ELSE!
KR
WRAAR
BEGORRAH! THE BLINKIN' BEASTIE'S GETTIN' STRONGER NOW!
BUT HOW--?

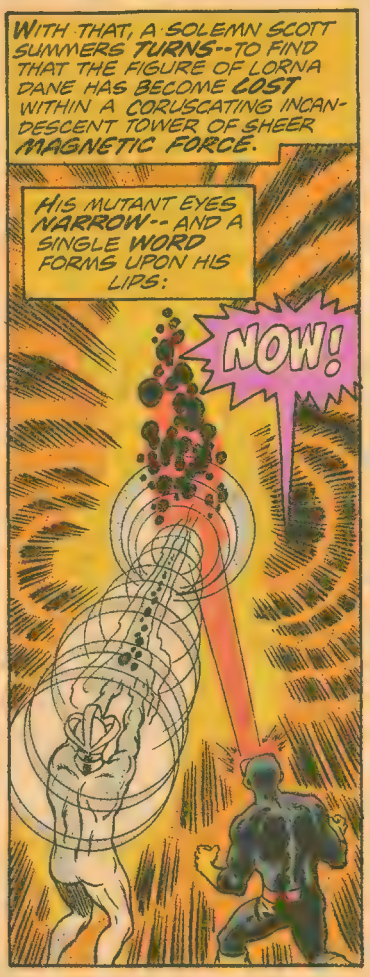

CYCLOPS, THE ISLAND'S MIND HAS SUDDENLY GROWN MORE FORCEFUL!

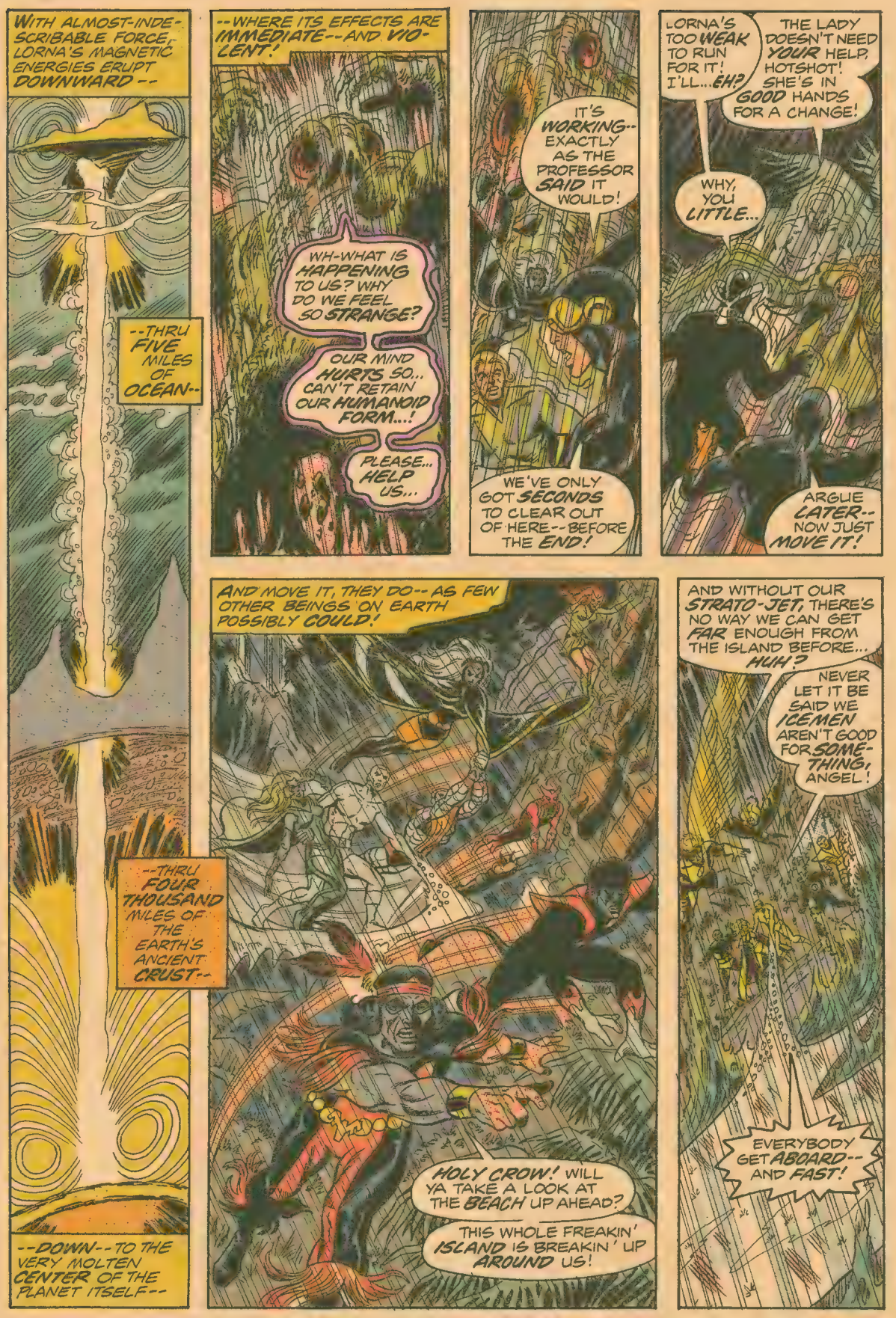

I--I CAN'T MAINTAIN MY ASSAULT ANY LONGER--!
FORGIVE ME, SCOTT...
...BUT I FEAR... YOU'RE... ON... YOUR... OWN...

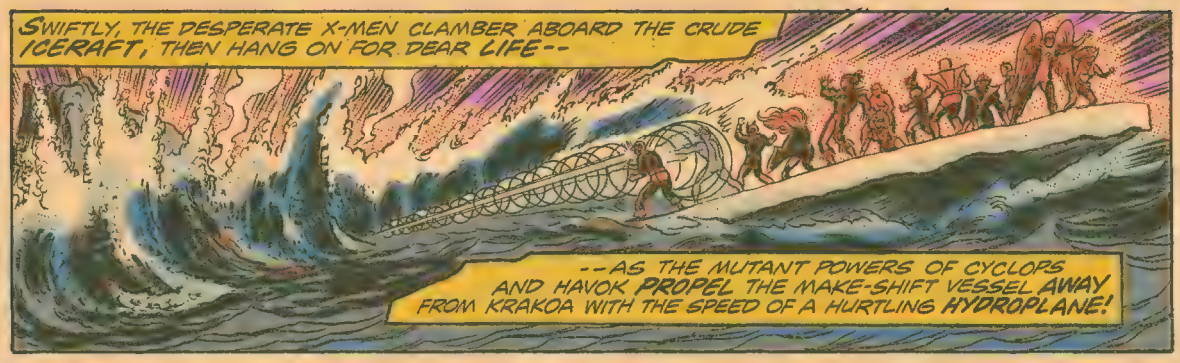
FOOLS! YOU BROUGHT RAIN FROM THE SKY TO DESTROY US--
--BUT IT SERVES ONLY TO REPLENISH US--

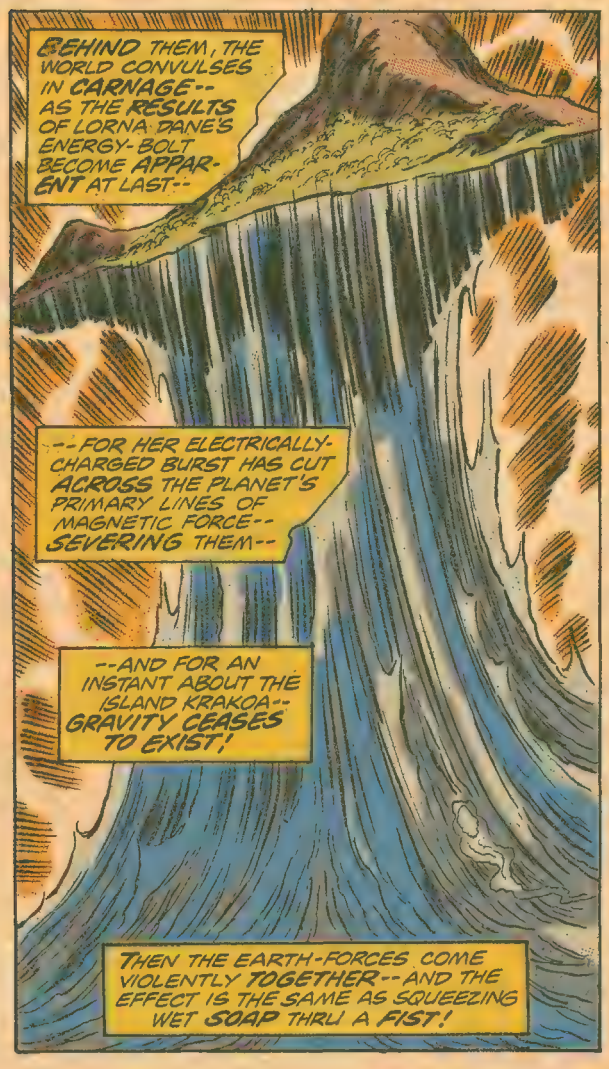
--AND GIVE US STRENGTH TO DESTROY YOU!
BUT AS BEFORE, THE X-MEN ARGUE THAT POINT--
--QUITE STRONGLY!

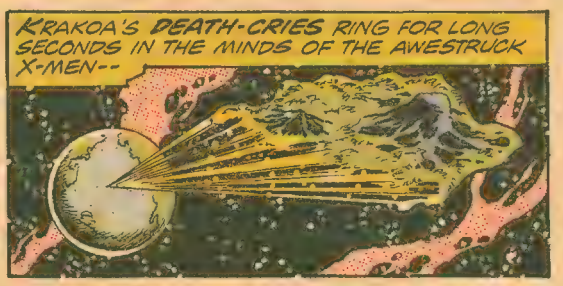
WE CAN'T HOLD THAT THING OFF FOREVER, SCOTT! IF THE PROFESSOR'S PLAN DOESN'T WORK...
WE'LL KNOW IF IT WORKS SOON ENOUGH, JEAN! GET EVERYBODY BACK!
WE'RE READY TO BEGIN!


WITH THAT, A SOLEMN SCOTT SUMMERS TURNS--TO FIND THAT THE FIGURE OF LORNA DANE HAS BECOME LOST WITHIN A CORUSCATING INCANDESCENT TOWER OF SHEER MAGNETIC FORCE.
HIS MUTANT EYES NARROW-- AND A SINGLE WORD FORMS UPON HIS LIPS:
NOW!

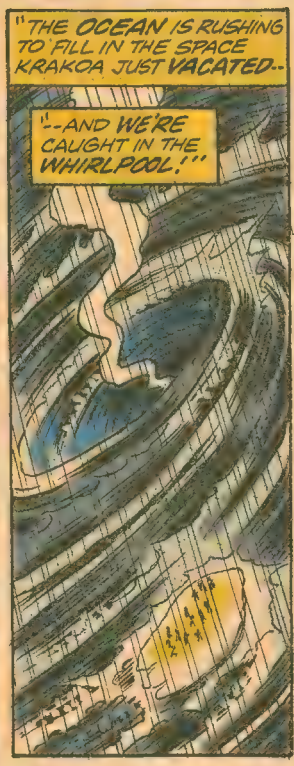

WITH ALMOST-INDESCRIBABLE FORCE, LORNA'S MAGNETIC ENERGIES ERUPT DOWNWARD --
--THRU FIVE MILES OF OCEAN--
--THRU FOUR THOUSAND MILES OF THE EARTH'S ANCIENT CRUST--
--DOWN--TO THE VERY MOLTEN CENTER OF THE PLANET ITSELF--
--WHERE ITS EFFECTS ARE IMMEDIATE--AND VIOLENT!
WH-WHAT IS HAPPENING TO US? WHY DO WE FEEL SO STRANGE?
OUR MIND HURTS SO... CAN'T RETAIN OUR HUMANOID FORM...!
PLEASE... HELP US...
IT'S WORKING--EXACTLY AS THE PROFESSOR SAID IT WOULD!
WE'VE ONLY GOT SECONDS TO CLEAR OUT OF HERE--BEFORE THE END!
LORNA'S TOO WEAK TO RUN FOR IT! I'LL...EH?
THE LADY DOESN'T NEED YOUR HELP, HOTSHOT! SHE'S IN GOOD HANDS FOR A CHANGE!
WHY, YOU LITTLE...
ARGUE LATER--NOW JUST MOVE IT!
AND MOVE IT, THEY DO--AS FEW OTHER BEINGS ON EARTH POSSIBLY COULD!
HOLY CROW! WILL YA TAKE A LOOK AT THE BEACH UP AHEAD?
THIS WHOLE FREAKIN' ISLAND IS BREAKIN' UP AROUND US!
AND WITHOUT OUR STRATO-JET, THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN GET FAR ENOUGH FROM THE ISLAND BEFORE... HUH?
NEVER LET IT BE SAID WE ICEMEN AREN'T GOOD FOR SOMETHING, ANGEL!
EVERYBODY GET ABOARD--AND FAST!

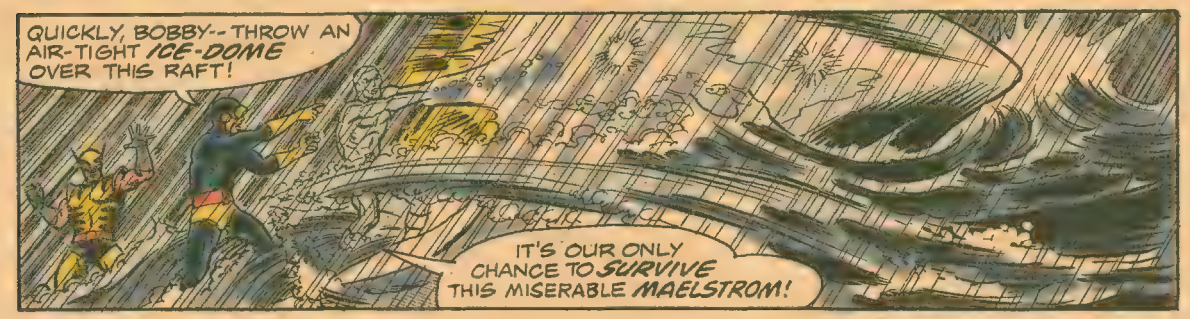

SWIFTLY, THE DESPERATE X-MEN CLAMBER ABOARD THE CRUDE ICERAFT, THEN HANG ON FOR DEAR LIFE--
--AS THE MUTANT POWERS OF CYCLOPS AND HAVOK PROPEL THE MAKE-SHIFT VESSEL AWAY FROM KRAKOA WITH THE SPEED OF A HURTLING HYDROPLANE!


BEHIND THEM, THE WORLD CONVULSES IN CARNAGE-- AS THE RESULTS OF LORNA DANE'S ENERGY-BOLT BECOME APPARENT AT LAST--
--FOR HER ELECTRICALLY-CHARGED BURST HAS CUT ACROSS THE PLANET'S PRIMARY LINES OF MAGNETIC FORCE-- SEVERING THEM--
--AND FOR AN INSTANT ABOUT THE ISLAND KRAKOA-- GRAVITY CEASES TO EXIST!
THEN THE EARTH-FORCES COME VIOLENTLY TOGETHER--AND THE EFFECT IS THE SAME AS SQUEEZING WET SOAP THRU A FIST!


KRAKOA'S DEATH-CRIES RING FOR LONG SECONDS IN THE MINDS OF THE AWESTRUCK X-MEN--

--THEN A NEW, MORE FRIGHTENING REALITY INTRUDES UPON THE SCENE...
BRACE YOURSELVES, EVERYONE-- THERE'S TROUBLE AHEAD!


"THE OCEAN IS RUSHING TO FILL IN THE SPACE KRAKOA JUST VACATED--
"--AND WE'RE CAUGHT IN THE WHIRLPOOL!"


QUICKLY, BOBBY--THROW AN AIR-TIGHT ICE-DOME OVER THIS RAFT!
IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE TO SURVIVE THIS MISERABLE MAELSTROM!

VORACIOUSLY, THE GREAT ICE-BUBBLE IS SUCKED INTO THE WILDLY-SWIRLING MAW--
--AND THOSE WITHIN ARE BATTERED ALMOST SENSELESS AGAINST ITS COLD, UNFEELING WALLS.
THEY VOICE THEIR PAIN ENTHUSIASTICALLY--
--AND THEN THEY ARE GONE!
THE SEETHING WATERS SWIRL CLOSED ABOVE THEIR HEADS--AND FOR A TIME THE SEA IS CALM.
THE MINUTES PASS INTERMINABLY--THEN THE HUGE GLEAMING BUBBLE BURSTS THE WATER'S SURFACE--
--AND IS ITSELF BURST IN TURN BY A BEAM OF SCARLET FURY!
FRESH AIR... A WARM SUN... DID YOU EVER SEE ANYTHING MORE BEAUTIFUL?
YEAH--THAT! ALMOST FORGOT THE OL' STRATO-JET IS WATERTIGHT!
PADDLE ON OVER WHILE I GO OPEN THE HATCH!
SHORTLY, AS THE STRATO-JET STREAKS SKYWARD...
SORRY WE DON'T HAVE SEATS FOR ALL OF YOU--BUT THIS PLANE WASN'T DESIGNED TO CARRY SO MANY MUTANTS!
WHICH BRINGS US TO OUR NEXT LITTLE PROBLEM...
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH THIRTEEN X-MEN?
WE'LL FIND OUT NEXT ISSUE...
WHEN THE DOOMSMITH STRIKES!

MARVEL COMICS
THE UNCANNY
X-MEN
WOLVERINE
CAPTAIN AMERICA
BLACK WIDOW
TOGETHER AGAIN...
FOR THE
FIRST TIME!
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$1.00 US
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268
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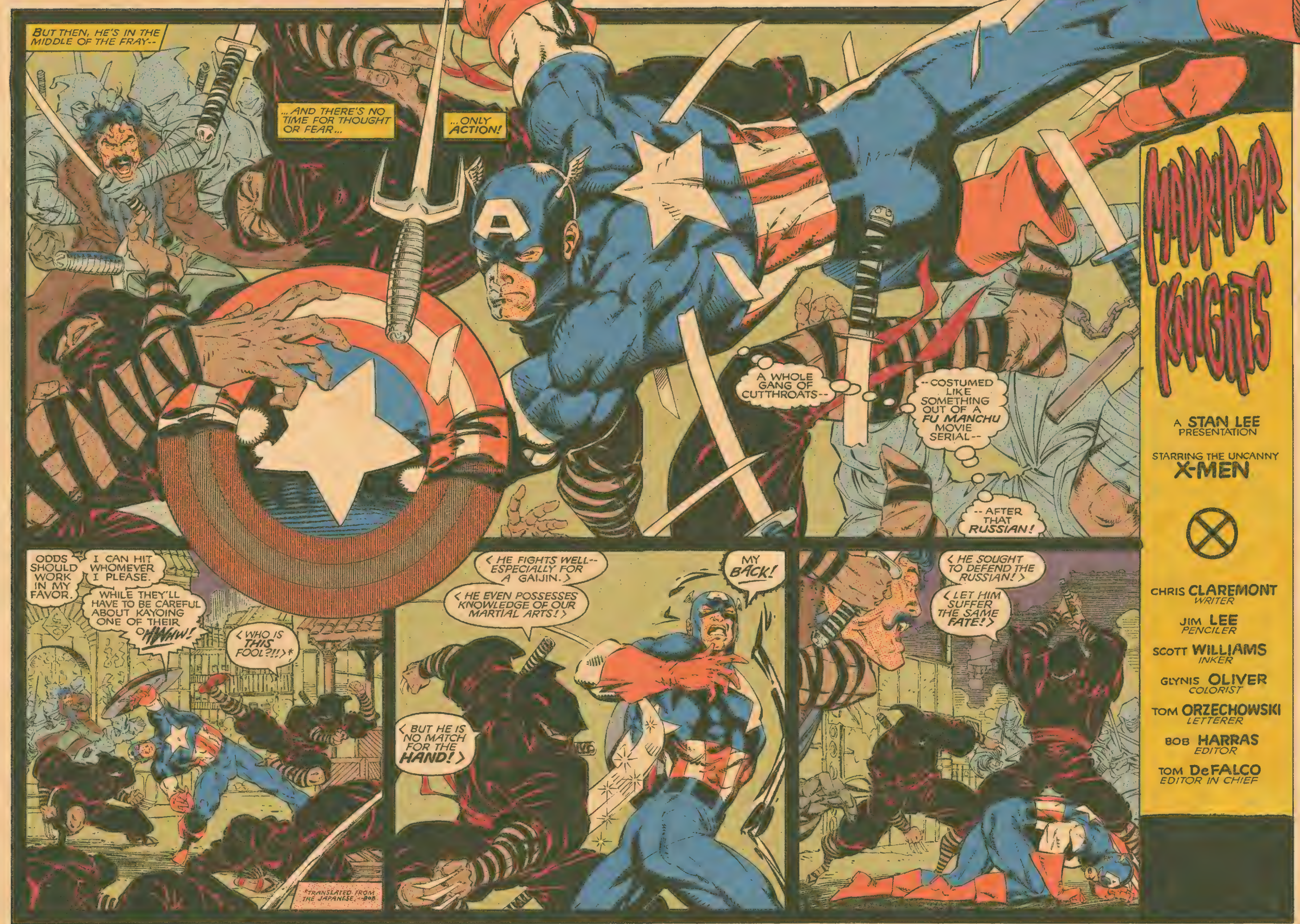
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
LEE

A WOLVERINE Gallery

MADRIPOOR, IN THE LATE-SUMMER OF 1941...
IN TIMES TO COME, HE'LL MAKE MOVES LIKE THIS WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT--
--FEAR BALANCED BY A COOL AWARENESS OF HIS OWN CAPABILITIES...
...AND A LIGHTNING-QUICK, UNCANNILY ACCURATE ASSESSMENT OF HIS FOES'.
BUT THAT'S THEN.
THIS IS NOW.
AND THE THOUGHT BUBBLING TREACHEROUSLY ACROSS THE BASE OF STEVE ROGERS' SKULL -- AS HE LAUNCHES HIMSELF INTO THE FACE OF WHAT FOR ANYONE ELSE WOULD BE CERTAIN DEATH--
--IS HOW HE COULD HAVE BEEN DUNCE ENOUGH TO WILLINGLY VOLUNTEER TO TAKE ON THE MANTLE OF THE STAR-SPANGLED SENTINEL OF LIBERTY:
CAPTAIN AMERICA!

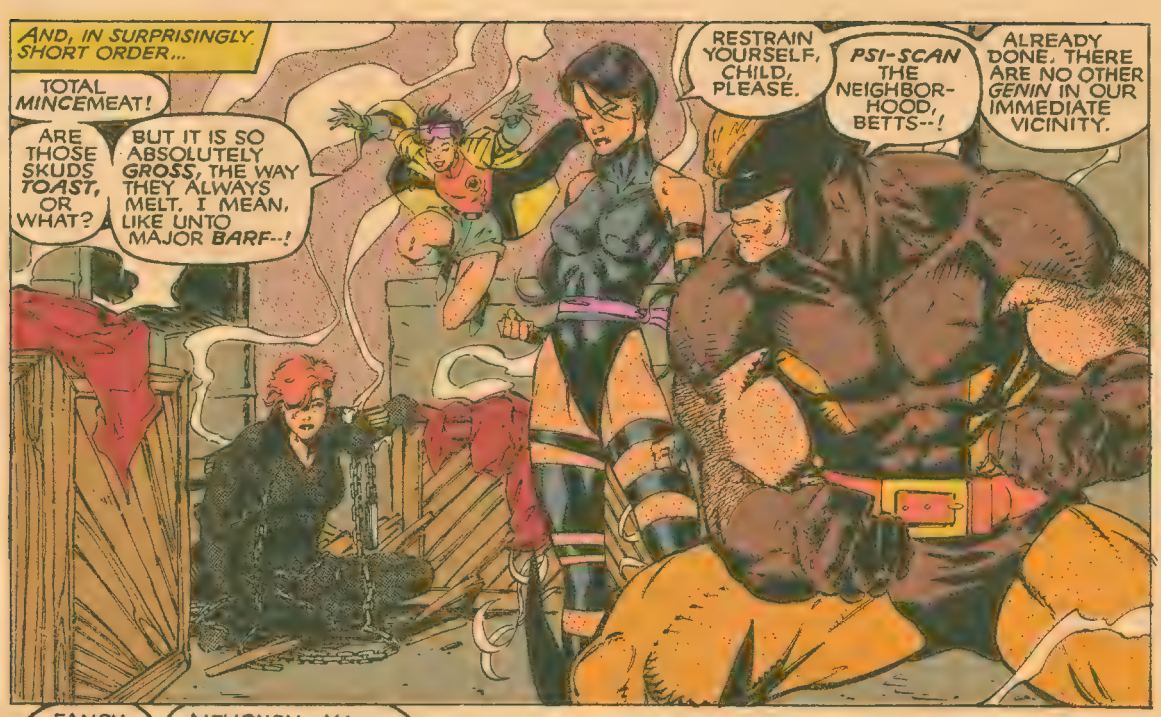

BUT THEN, HE'S IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FRAY--
...AND THERE'S NO TIME FOR THOUGHT OR FEAR...
...ONLY ACTION!
A WHOLE GANG OF CUTTHROATS--
--COSTUMED LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A FU MANCHU MOVIE SERIAL--
--AFTER THAT RUSSIAN!
ODDS SHOULD WORK IN MY FAVOR.
I CAN HIT WHOMEVER I PLEASE.
WHILE THEY'LL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT KAYOING ONE OF THEIR OWN!
<WHO IS THIS FOOL?!!>*
*TRANSLATED FROM THE JAPANESE.--BOB
<HE FIGHTS WELL--ESPECIALLY FOR A GAIJIN.>
<HE EVEN POSSESSES KNOWLEDGE OF OUR MARTIAL ARTS!>
<BUT HE IS NO MATCH FOR THE HAND!>
MY BACK!
<HE SOUGHT TO DEFEND THE RUSSIAN!>
<LET HIM SUFFER THE SAME FATE!>
MADRIPOOR KNIGHTS
A STAN LEE PRESENTATION
STARRING THE UNCANNY X-MEN
CHRIS CLAREMONT WRITER
JIM LEE PENCILER
SCOTT WILLIAMS INKER
GLYNIS OLIVER COLORIST
TOM ORZECHOWSKI LETTERER
BOB HARRAS EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

HEY THERE!
<ANOTHER ROUND-EYED DOG!>
<ARE THERE NO END TO THEM?>
ONE CHANCE, GENIN. WALK AWAY.
<HE KNOWS OF US, BRETHREN!>
<SLAY HIM!>
MUSIC TO MY EARS, BUB!
STEP RIGHT UP!
BE THE FIRST IN LINE TO MEET YOUR ANCESTORS!
HOPE YOU DON'T MIND SOME HELP, STRANGER.
PLENTY TO GO ROUND.
BUT I WASN'T THE ONE IN NEED OF IT.
TRUE ENOUGH.
AND MUCH APPRECIATED.
NEVER FOUGHT ANYONE LIKE THESE PEOPLE BEFORE.
COMBAT STYLE TAKES SOME GETTING USED TO.
I'LL KNOW BETTER NEXT TIME.
GOOD FOR YOU--ALWAYS PROVIDING YOU GET A NEXT TIME.

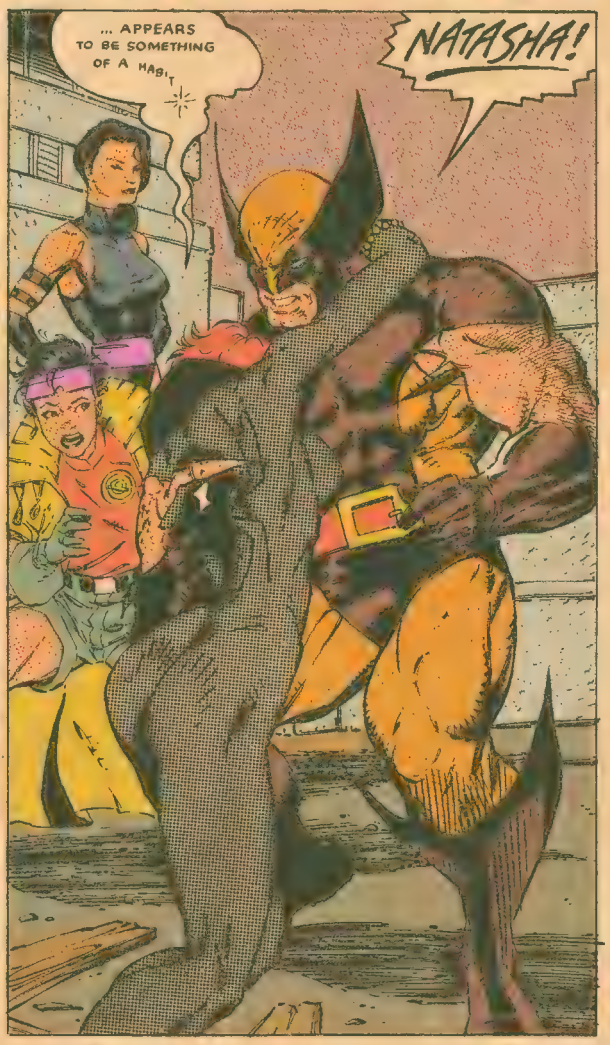
AND, IN SURPRISINGLY SHORT ORDER...
GONE!
YUP. GENIN GOT NO STOMACH FOR LOSIN'.
THE BODIES OF THEIR DEAD-- DISSOLVING!
TIDY LITTLE BEGGARS, I'LL GIVE 'EM THAT.
YOU TALK LIKE YOU KNOW THEM.
"GENIN," I BELIEVE YOU SAID?
COMMON ASSASSINS-- A DEMON NINJA CLAN CALLED THE HAND.
JAPANESE.
BY BIRTH AN' HERITAGE.
BUT THEY WORK FOR WHOEVER PAYS 'EM.
THANKS FOR THE HELP.
I'M CAPTAIN AMERICA.
DO TELL.
I LIKE THE SUIT.
JUST THE THING FOR PLAYIN' IT SLY AN' SNEAKY.
NEVER MET ONE'A THOSE BEFORE.
ME, I'M JUST A GUY.
THAT ISN'T MY STYLE.
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE A SYMBOL.
NAME'S LOGAN.
WELCOME TO LOWTOWN.

FORTY-NINE YEARS LATER...
BRILLIANT, WIDOW!
SPIDERS ARE SUPPOSED TO SET TRAPS.
NOT CHARGE HEADLONG INTO THEM.
TIME TO SWALLOW MY RUSSIAN PRIDE...
...AND TURN TO THE BETTER PART OF VALOR.
<BRETHREN--SHE FLEES!>
SKRAMM
<NOT SO FAST, BLACK WIDOW!>
<WE KNOW YOUR POWERS AND YOUR SKILLS--
<--AND HAVE WAYS OF DEALING WITH BOTH!>
TEACH ME TO GO ON A CAPER WITHOUT A BACK-UP.
FUNNY--MAYBE EVEN FITTING--
--FOR THINGS TO END HERE. LIKE THIS.
ALMOST WHERE THEY BEGAN.
YOU WANT ME, GENIN.
BE PREPARED TO PAY THE PRICE!
SKRT!
<THAT SOUND!>
<ANCESTORS--NO!>

BATTER UP, SKUDS!
PLAY BALL!
ONE ROUND'A JUBILEE'S FIREWORKS--
PAM
PAM
PAM
ZIPPITY-ZAP
BAM
POW!
--GRADE-"A" GUARANTEED TO FLASH-BLIND EVERY BAD GUY EYE IN THE PLACE!
<THE RENEGADE--PSYLOCKE!>
SINCE I SEE TELEPATHICALLY AS WELL WITH MY MIND AS MY EYES...
...THAT POSES NO PROBLEM FOR ME!
THOUGHT I MADE THIS CLEAR A LONG TIME AGO, GENIN.
MADRIPOOR'S MY TURF.
YOU AREN'T WELCOME.

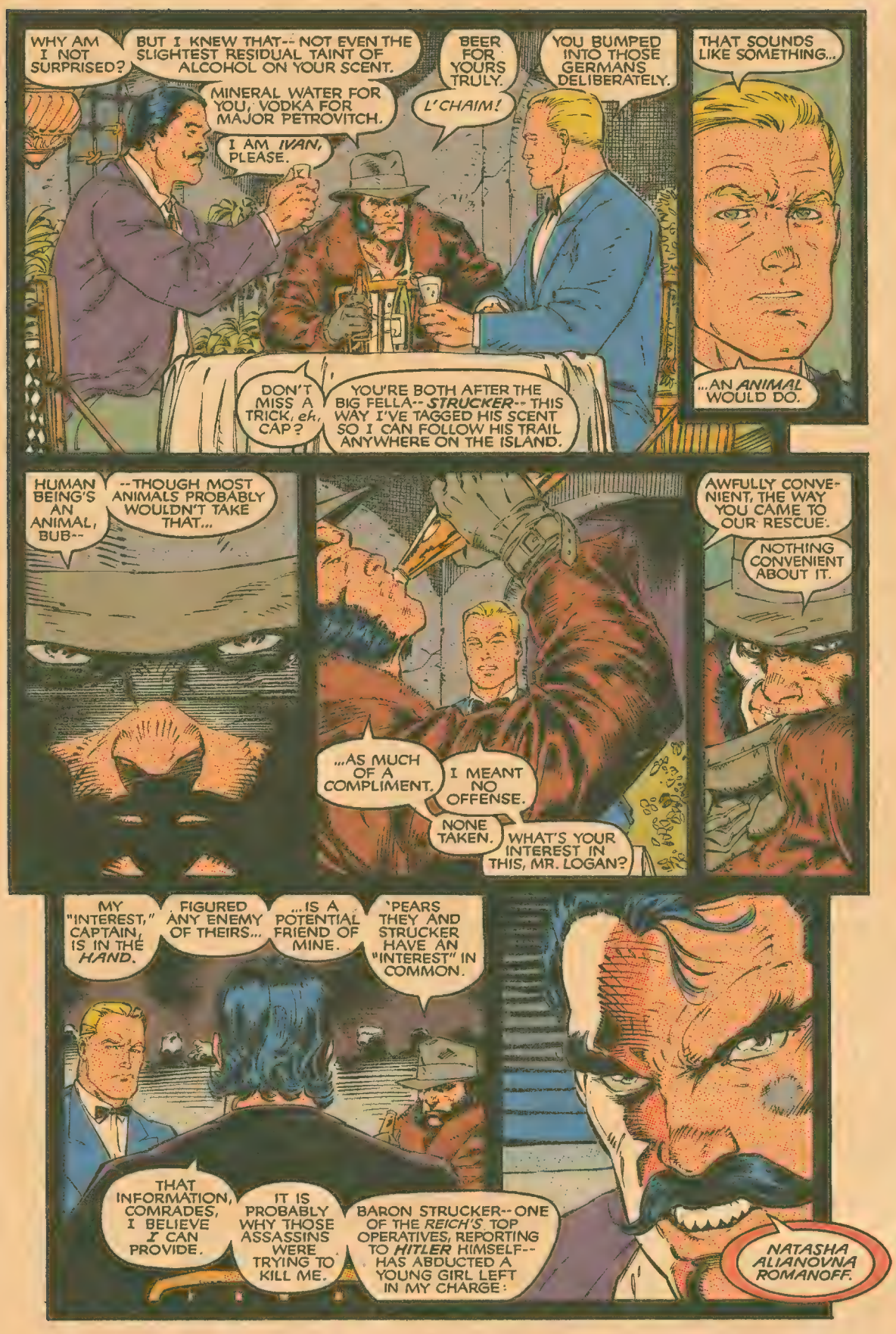

AND, IN SURPRISINGLY SHORT ORDER...
TOTAL MINCEMEAT!
ARE THOSE SKUDS TOAST, OR WHAT?
BUT IT IS SO ABSOLUTELY GROSS, THE WAY THEY ALWAYS MELT. I MEAN, LIKE UNTO MAJOR BARF--!
RESTRAIN YOURSELF, CHILD, PLEASE.
PSI-SCAN THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD, BETTS--!
ALREADY DONE. THERE ARE NO OTHER GENIN IN OUR IMMEDIATE VICINITY.

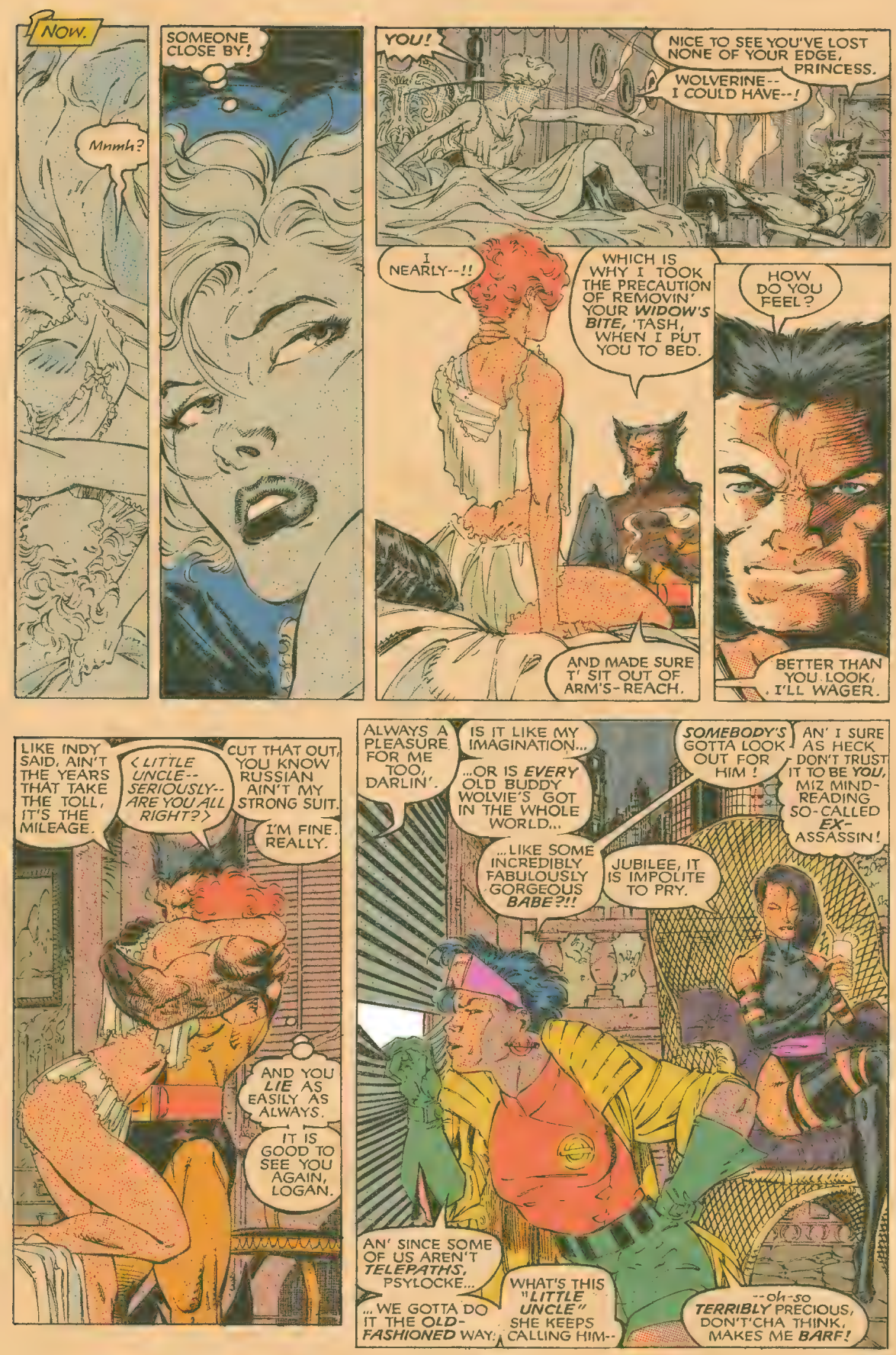
FANCY MEETING YOU HERE, WOLVERINE.
ALTHOUGH, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED--ESPECIALLY UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES--
-- I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED.
SAVING ME FROM DEATH -- AND WORSE -- IT APPEARS...


... APPEARS TO BE SOMETHING OF A HABIT
NATASHA!

1941.
SERAPH'S.
(TODAY KNOWN AS THE PRINCESS BAR.)
THE PLACE TO GO IN LOWTOWN IF YOU WANT TO CUT A DEAL...
... AND NOT WORRY ABOUT GETTING YOUR THROAT CUT IN THE BARGAIN.
AT LEAST, NOT ON THE PREMISES.
♪♫♪
WHULMF!
DOLT!
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
'SCUSE ME.
YOU SPILLED YOUR DRINK! I'M SOAKED!
'SCUSE ME ALL TO HECK!
APOLOGIZE TO BARON STRUCKER THIS INSTANT!
HE WAS IN MY WAY.
THIS IS A RESPECTABLE ESTABLISHMENT!
YUP.
TILL THEY LET YOU GOOSE-STEPPERS IN.
YOU WILL BEG HERR BARON'S PARDON.
AND THEN YOU WILL LEAVE.
S'POSE I DON'T.
THEN I WILL MOST HAPPILY...
...THRASH YOU...
...WITHIN AN INCH OF YOUR MISBEGOTTEN--!
THIS IS MY PLACE, GENTLEMEN.
!
?
HIYA, SERAPH!

I DECIDE WHO STAYS AND GOES.
TAKES ALL SORTS TO MAKE A GOOD SALOON, HERR KREUTZMANN.
AND IT ISN'T ALWAYS THE CLOTHES...
...THAT BRAND A MAN AS CLASS OR RIFF-RAFF.
THAT'S TELLIN' 'IM, DARLIN'!
SHUT YOUR MOUTH, I'LL DEAL WITH YOU LATER.
ONLY PERSON HERE ENTITLED TO THROW ANY WEIGHT AROUND...
...OR MAKE A SCENE, IS ME.
A REGRETTABLE MISUNDERSTANDING, MADAM.
KLAK
THOUGH WRONGED...
...THAT IS NO EXCUSE...
...FOR A TRUE JUNKER TO FORGET HIS MANNERS OR THE PROPRIETIES OF BEING A GUEST.
IT WILL NOT HAPPEN AGAIN.
GOING SOMEWHERE, SHORTY?
BACK TO MY TABLE?
BY RIGHTS, I SHOULD TOSS YOU INTO THE STREET ON YOUR CANUCKLEHEAD KEISTER!
YOU KNOW THE RULES, LOGAN!
IT WASN'T MY FAULT.
PUH-LEASE!
WHATEVER YOU HAVE PLANNED, TAKE IT OUTSIDE. I WON'T HAVE MY PLACE WRECKED...
...OR MY CUSTOMERS PUT AT RISK--
--FOR YOU, OR ANYONE!
YES, MA'AM!
DON'T YOU SASS ME, SHORTY--
--I MEAN IT!
DON'T DOUBT IT FOR A MINUTE.
HERE'S DRINKS, FELLAS.
SORRY FOR THE WAIT.
I DON'T DRINK.


WHY AM I NOT SURPRISED?
BUT I KNEW THAT-- NOT EVEN THE SLIGHTEST RESIDUAL TAINT OF ALCOHOL ON YOUR SCENT.
MINERAL WATER FOR YOU, VODKA FOR MAJOR PETROVITCH.
I AM IVAN, PLEASE.
BEER FOR YOURS TRULY.
L'CHAIM!
YOU BUMPED INTO THOSE GERMANS DELIBERATELY.
DON'T MISS A TRICK, eh, CAP?
YOU'RE BOTH AFTER THE BIG FELLA-- STRUCKER-- THIS WAY I'VE TAGGED HIS SCENT SO I CAN FOLLOW HIS TRAIL ANYWHERE ON THE ISLAND.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING...
...AN ANIMAL WOULD DO.
HUMAN BEING'S AN ANIMAL, BUB--
--THOUGH MOST ANIMALS PROBABLY WOULDN'T TAKE THAT...
...AS MUCH OF A COMPLIMENT.
I MEANT NO OFFENSE.
NONE TAKEN.
WHAT'S YOUR INTEREST IN THIS, MR. LOGAN?
AWFULLY CONVENIENT, THE WAY YOU CAME TO OUR RESCUE.
NOTHING CONVENIENT ABOUT IT.
MY "INTEREST," CAPTAIN, IS IN THE HAND.
FIGURED ANY ENEMY OF THEIRS...
...IS A POTENTIAL FRIEND OF MINE.
'PEARS THEY AND STRUCKER HAVE AN "INTEREST" IN COMMON.
THAT INFORMATION, COMRADES, I BELIEVE I CAN PROVIDE.
IT IS PROBABLY WHY THOSE ASSASSINS WERE TRYING TO KILL ME.
BARON STRUCKER-- ONE OF THE REICH'S TOP OPERATIVES, REPORTING TO HITLER HIMSELF-- HAS ABDUCTED A YOUNG GIRL LEFT IN MY CHARGE:
NATASHA ALIANOVNA ROMANOFF.


NOW.
Mmmh?
SOMEONE CLOSE BY!
YOU!
NICE TO SEE YOU'VE LOST NONE OF YOUR EDGE, PRINCESS.
WOLVERINE-- I COULD HAVE--!
I NEARLY--!!
WHICH IS WHY I TOOK THE PRECAUTION OF REMOVIN' YOUR WIDOW'S BITE, 'TASH, WHEN I PUT YOU TO BED.
AND MADE SURE T' SIT OUT OF ARM'S-REACH.
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
BETTER THAN YOU LOOK, I'LL WAGER.
LIKE INDY SAID, AIN'T THE YEARS THAT TAKE THE TOLL, IT'S THE MILEAGE.
<LITTLE UNCLE-- SERIOUSLY-- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?>
CUT THAT OUT, YOU KNOW RUSSIAN AIN'T MY STRONG SUIT.
I'M FINE. REALLY.
AND YOU LIE AS EASILY AS ALWAYS.
IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, LOGAN.
ALWAYS A PLEASURE FOR ME TOO, DARLIN'.
IS IT LIKE MY IMAGINATION...
...OR IS EVERY OLD BUDDY WOLVIE'S GOT IN THE WHOLE WORLD...
...LIKE SOME INCREDIBLY FABULOUSLY GORGEOUS BABE?!!
SOMEBODY'S GOTTA LOOK OUT FOR HIM!
AN' I SURE AS HECK DON'T TRUST IT TO BE YOU, MIZ MIND-READING SO-CALLED EX-ASSASSIN!
JUBILEE, IT IS IMPOLITE TO PRY.
AN' SINCE SOME OF US AREN'T TELEPATHS, PSYLOCKE...
...WE GOTTA DO IT THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY.
WHAT'S THIS "LITTLE UNCLE" SHE KEEPS CALLING HIM--
--oh-so TERRIBLY PRECIOUS, DON'T'CHA THINK, MAKES ME BARF!

A LITTLE WHILE LATER...

NOT SO LONG AGO, OLD FRIEND, I THOUGHT *DAREDEVIL* AND I HAD DEALT WITH THE HAND, ONCE AND FOR ALL. *

OF ALL PEOPLE, PRINCESS, *YOU* SHOULD KNOW BETTER'N TO MAKE THAT SORT OF BLANKET ASSUMPTION.

ESPECIALLY ABOUT THE HAND.

BUT IF THEIR INVOLVEMENT WAS A SURPRISE-- WHAT BROUGHT YOU HERE?

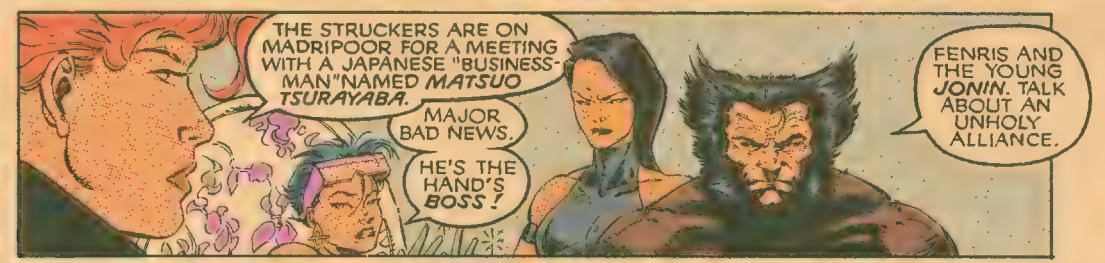
THE *STRUCKER* TWINS-- *ANDREA* AND *ANDREAS*--

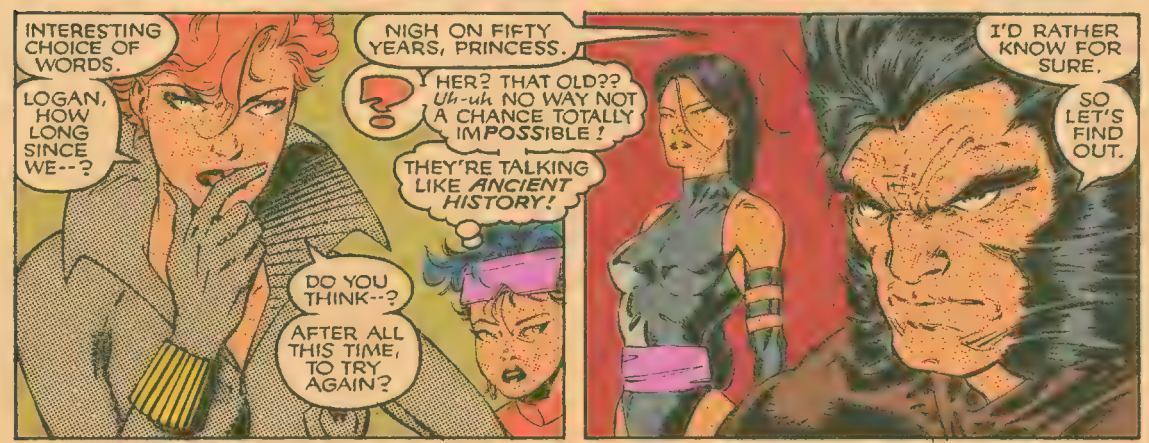
-- STATUS SURVEILLANCE AS A FAVOR FOR *NICK FURY*.

WE WERE COMIN' FROM THE OTHER DIRECTION.

HEARD THERE WAS A *HAND* CADRE RUNNIN' ON MY TURF, FIGURED TO FIND OUT WHY.

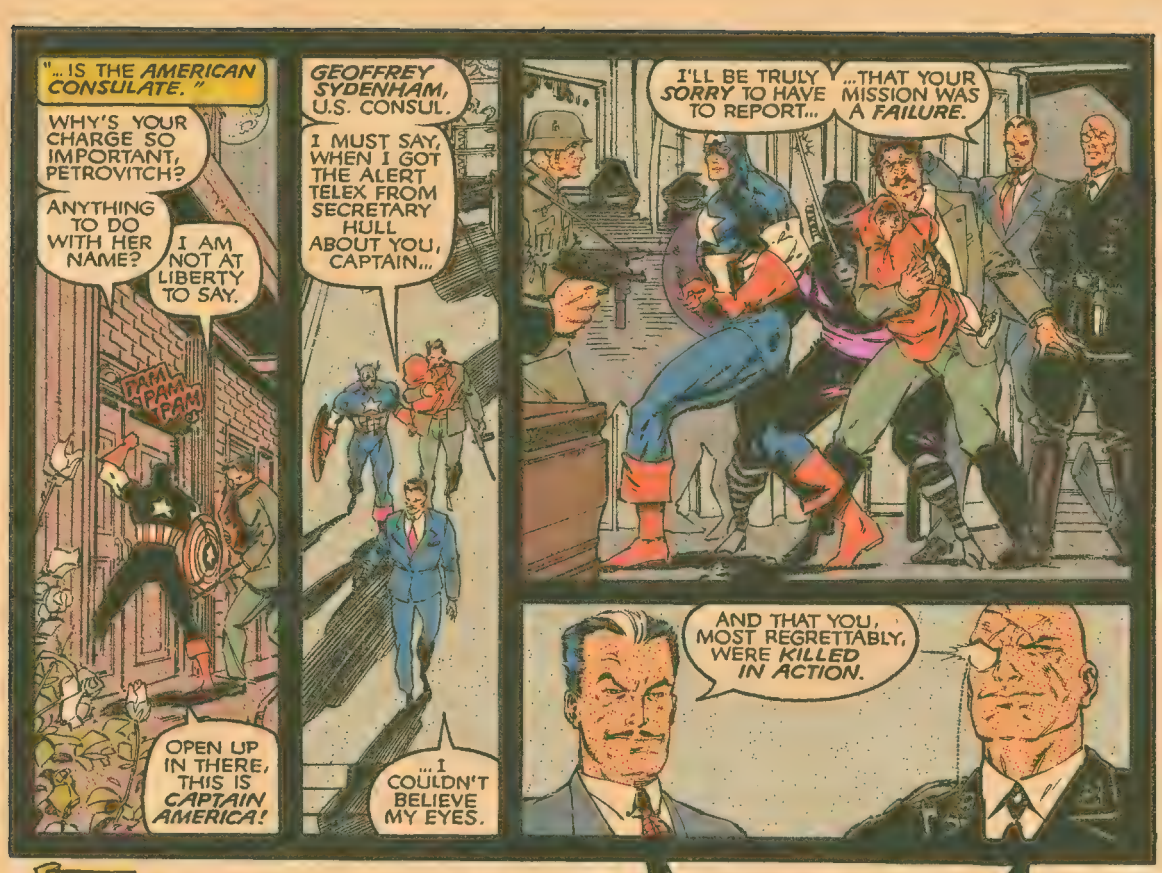
*IN THE JUSTLY CLASSIC DAREDEVIL #'S 185-190.

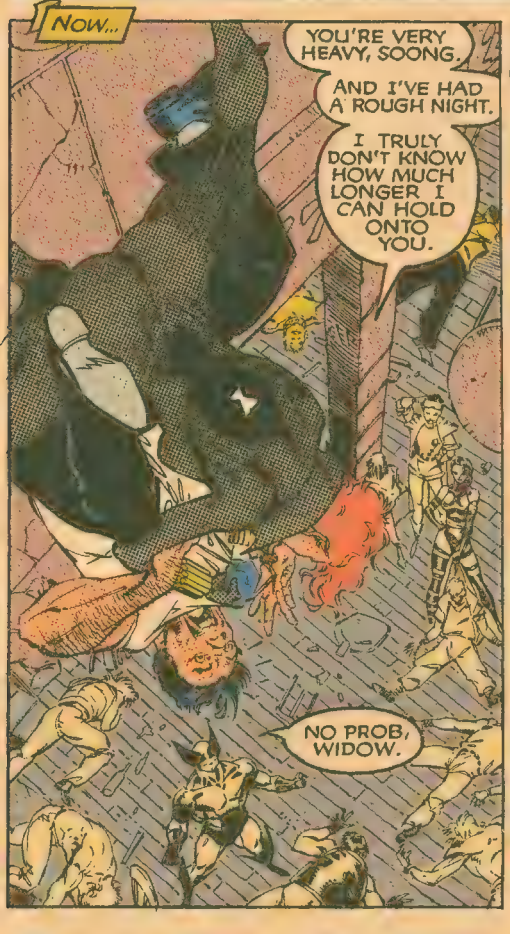




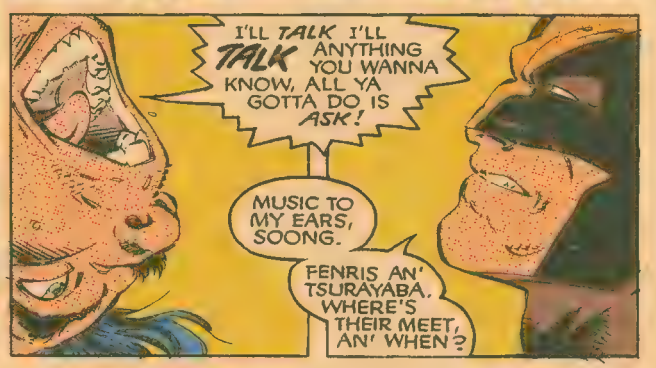
1941.
ACHTUNG!
UP AHEAD--
--SOME FOOL BLOCKS THE ROAD!
IT'S THE CRAZY AMERIKANER FROM THE BAR!
OUR ORDERS ARE TO LET NOTHING STOP US.
HE'S SEALED HIS OWN FATE!
FUNNY THING, BUB.
I WAS THINKIN' PRETTY MUCH THE SAME--
--ABOUT YOU!
KRAK!
AN' FOR THE RECORD, I'M CANADIAN!
AN' PROUD OF IT!
SKRAM!

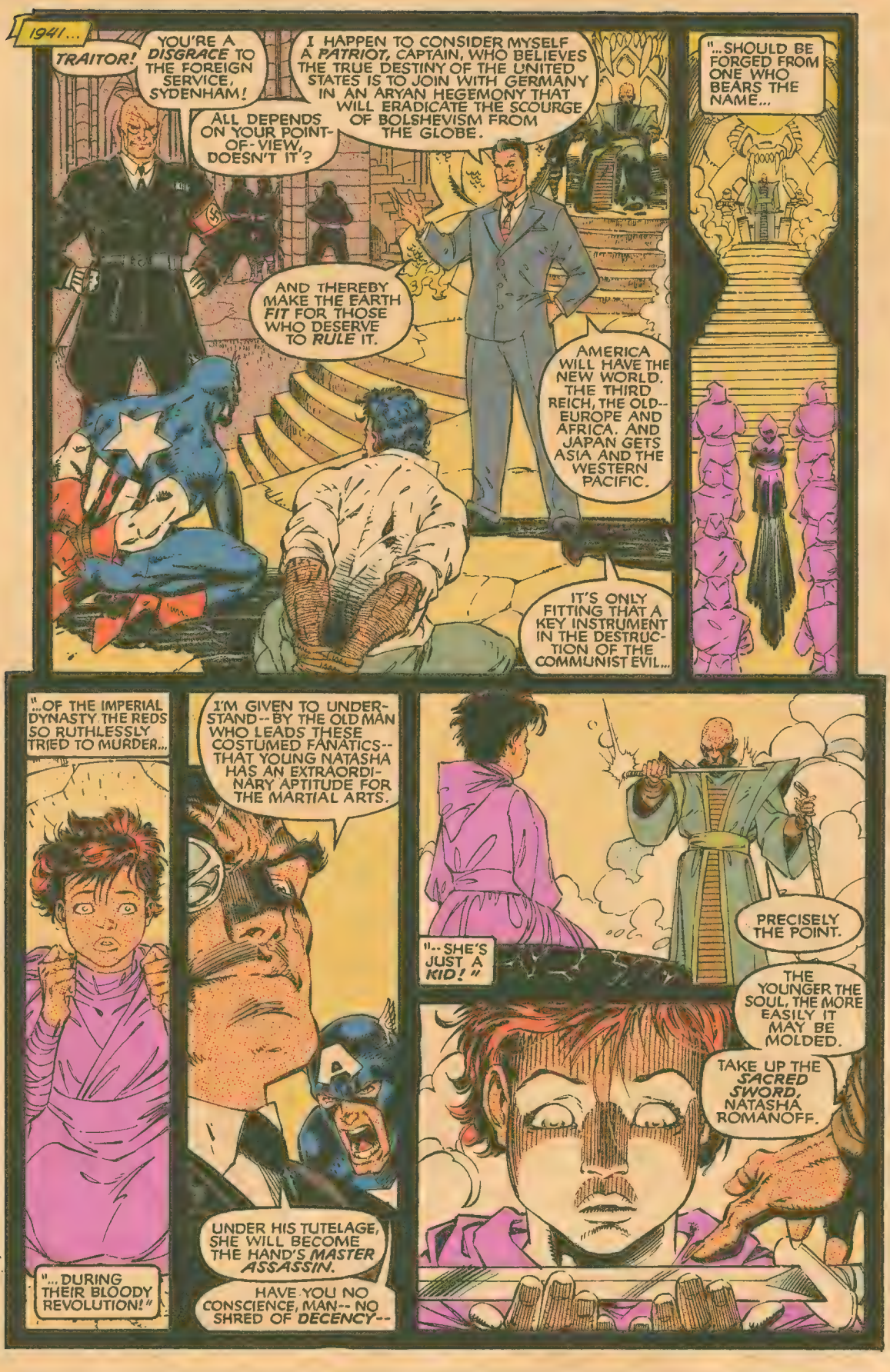
WHO DOES THAT LOON THINK HE IS--
--SOME SORT OF SUPER MAN?
NOTHING AT ALL LIKE YOU--
--eh, COMRADE CAPTAIN?
THAT'S DIFFERENT!
AT LEAST I HAVE PROFESSOR ERSKINE'S SUPER-SOLDIER SERUM TO THANK FOR GIVING ME MY EDGE.
ALLIED SWINE, YOUR SCHOOLBOY HEROICS ARE WASTED!
IF THE REICH CANNOT HAVE THE CHILD...
BAM BAM BAM
...NO ONE CAN!
DOWN, GIRL!
NO!
NATASHA ALIANOVNA--
(-- I SWORE TO KEEP YOU SAFE--!)
BOSZHE MOI!
THIS WASN'T EVEN HIS FIGHT--
--HE JOINED UP WITH US ALMOST IT SEEMED FOR THE FUN OF IT--
--YET HE SHIELDED YOUR BODY WITH HIS OWN.
HE TOLD ME TO BE BRAVE, IVAN PETROVITCH.
NEVER, MY LITTLE TSARINA, HAVE I KNOWN YOU TO BE ANYTHING ELSE.
BACK TO SERAPH'S, AS HE TOLD US?
TOO RISKY. FIRST PLACE THEY'LL LOOK FOR US.
BEST BET, I'D SAY...


"...IS THE AMERICAN CONSULATE."
WHY'S YOUR CHARGE SO IMPORTANT, PETROVITCH?
ANYTHING TO DO WITH HER NAME?
I AM NOT AT LIBERTY TO SAY.
PAM PAM PAM
OPEN UP IN THERE, THIS IS CAPTAIN AMERICA!
GEOFFREY SYDENHAM, U.S. CONSUL.
I MUST SAY, WHEN I GOT THE ALERT TELEX FROM SECRETARY HULL ABOUT YOU, CAPTAIN...
...I COULDN'T BELIEVE MY EYES.
I'LL BE TRULY SORRY TO HAVE TO REPORT...
...THAT YOUR MISSION WAS A FAILURE.
AND THAT YOU, MOST REGRETTABLY, WERE KILLED IN ACTION.


NOW...
YOU'RE VERY HEAVY, SOONG.
AND I'VE HAD A ROUGH NIGHT.
I TRULY DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN HOLD ONTO YOU.
NO PROB, WIDOW.

I'LL BE SURE TO CATCH HIM.
SNIKT!

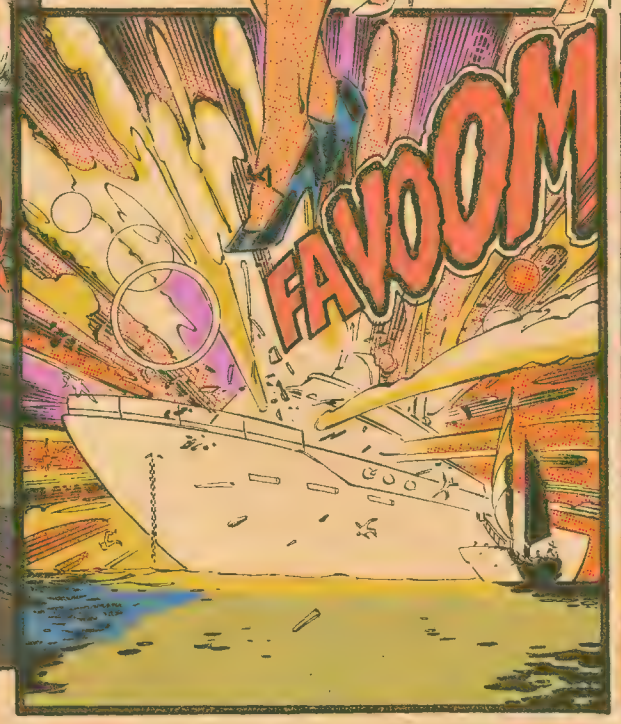

I'LL TALK I'LL TALK ANYTHING YOU WANNA KNOW, ALL YA GOTTA DO IS ASK!
MUSIC TO MY EARS, SOONG.
FENRIS AN' TSURAYABA, WHERE'S THEIR MEET, AN' WHEN?

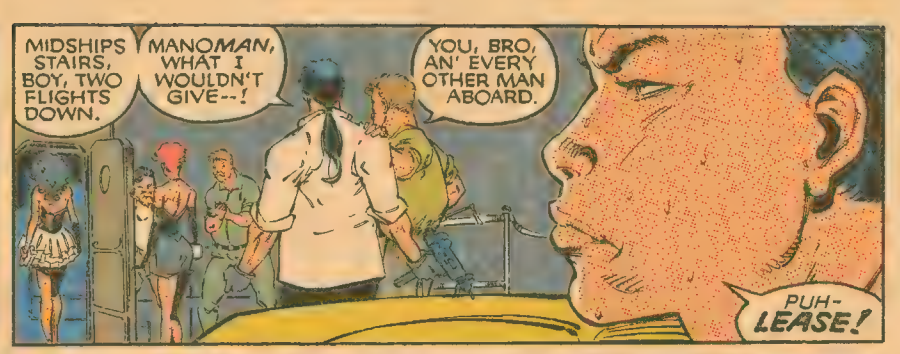

1941...
TRAITOR!
YOU'RE A DISGRACE TO THE FOREIGN SERVICE, SYDENHAM!
ALL DEPENDS ON YOUR POINT-OF-VIEW, DOESN'T IT?
I HAPPEN TO CONSIDER MYSELF A PATRIOT, CAPTAIN, WHO BELIEVES THE TRUE DESTINY OF THE UNITED STATES IS TO JOIN WITH GERMANY IN AN ARYAN HEGEMONY THAT WILL ERADICATE THE SCOURGE OF BOLSHEVISM FROM THE GLOBE.
AND THEREBY MAKE THE EARTH FIT FOR THOSE WHO DESERVE TO RULE IT.
AMERICA WILL HAVE THE NEW WORLD. THE THIRD REICH, THE OLD-- EUROPE AND AFRICA. AND JAPAN GETS ASIA AND THE WESTERN PACIFIC.
IT'S ONLY FITTING THAT A KEY INSTRUMENT IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE COMMUNIST EVIL...
"...SHOULD BE FORGED FROM ONE WHO BEARS THE NAME...
"...OF THE IMPERIAL DYNASTY THE REDS SO RUTHLESSLY TRIED TO MURDER...
"... DURING THEIR BLOODY REVOLUTION!"
I'M GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND-- BY THE OLD MAN WHO LEADS THESE COSTUMED FANATICS-- THAT YOUNG NATASHA HAS AN EXTRAORDINARY APTITUDE FOR THE MARTIAL ARTS.
UNDER HIS TUTELAGE, SHE WILL BECOME THE HAND'S MASTER ASSASSIN.
HAVE YOU NO CONSCIENCE, MAN-- NO SHRED OF DECENCY--
"-- SHE'S JUST A KID!"
PRECISELY THE POINT.
THE YOUNGER THE SOUL, THE MORE EASILY IT MAY BE MOLDED.
TAKE UP THE SACRED SWORD, NATASHA ROMANOFF.

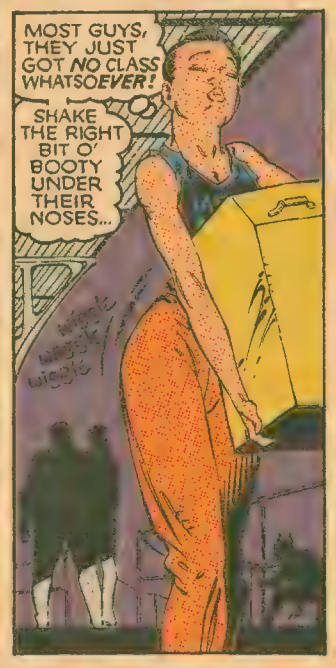
NOW...
BUCCANEER BAY, WHERE ONCE MADRIPOOR CORSAIRS RANGED FAR AND WIDE FOR PREY.
STILL DO, IN A WAY.
BUT FROM OFFICES, INSTEAD OF PIRATE SHIPS, USING COMPUTER NETWORKS TO MAKE FORTUNES...
... OR RUIN THEM.
LESS ROMANCE THAN THE OLD DAYS.

INFINITELY MORE PROFIT...
...AND POWER.

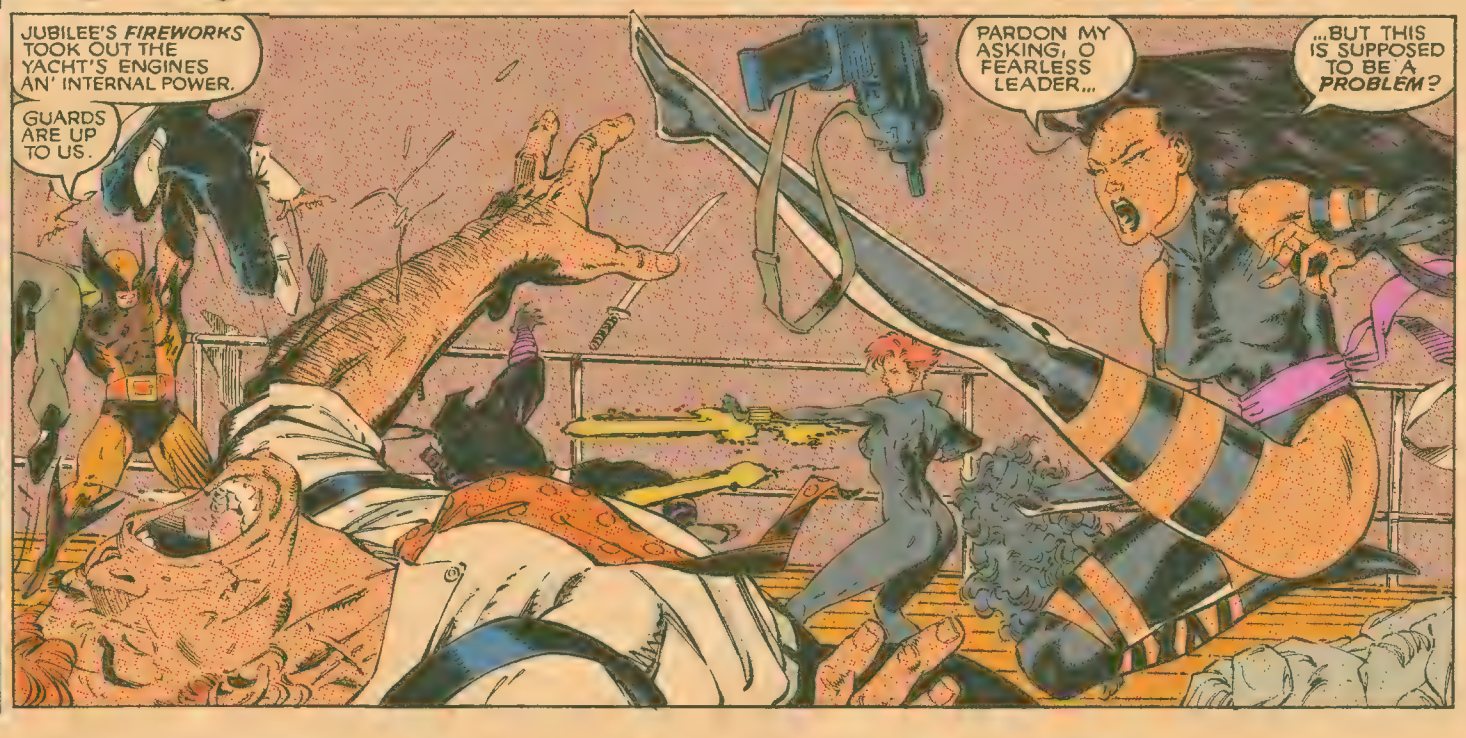
SOME OF THE PERKS OF WHICH...
... ARE SAUNTERING ABOARD.
BE STILL MY HEART!
THAT SOONG, WHEN HE TAKES CARE OF BUSINESS...
...HE TAKES CARE OF BUSINESS!
'SCUSE ME!
EXCUSE ME!
DIM SUM FOR FIFTY--
--WHEREYAWANNIT?


FAVOOM


MIDSHIPS STAIRS, BOY, TWO FLIGHTS DOWN.
MANOMAN, WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE--!
YOU, BRO, AN' EVERY OTHER MAN ABOARD.
PUH-LEASE!


MOST GUYS, THEY JUST GOT NO CLASS WHATSOEVER!
SHAKE THE RIGHT BIT O' BOOTY UNDER THEIR NOSES...

"...WHAT PASSES IN 'EM FOR BRAINS GOES RIGHT OUT THE WINDOW!"
EVENIN', FELLAS.
GOT A LIGHT?


JUBILEE'S FIREWORKS TOOK OUT THE YACHT'S ENGINES AN' INTERNAL POWER.
GUARDS ARE UP TO US.
PARDON MY ASKING, O FEARLESS LEADER...
...BUT THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A PROBLEM?

1941.
USE IT, CHILD, TO TAKE THE LIFE OF YOUR FRIENDS AND WOULD-BE SAVIORS.
THE FIRST OF MANY JOYOUS STEPS INTO THE ABYSS.
PLEASE-- NO--!
KTAK!
RESISTANCE IS USELESS, GIRL. OBEY ME!
I AM JONIN, MY WILL IS SUPREME-- eh?!?
NOT HARDLY, BUB--
--AN' ESPECIALLY NOT TONIGHT!
SMAK!
WHASSA-MATTA, FELLAS?
LOOK LIKE YOU'RE SEEIN' A GHOST.
BUT-- WE SAW YOU SHOT!
I GOT BETTER.
SLASH!

WE'RE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET, PARTNER.
BY A LONGSHOT.
ASSASSINS DON'T LOOK TOO PLEASED THAT YOU KILLED THEIR LEADER.
HAD IT COMING.
NO ARGUMENT.
BUT NEITHER THEY-- NOR STRUCKER'S DEATH'S-HEAD STORM-TROOPERS-- ARE ABOUT TO LET US LEAVE...
...WITHOUT A FIGHT.
THEIR CHOICE.
THEIR FUNERAL!

HAD THIS ALL SET UP, Y'KNOW!
WOULD'A GOTTEN CLEAN AWAY, SPARED EVERYONE A WHOLE WORLD O' GRIEF--
--IF YOU'D ONLY DONE AS YOU WERE FLAMIN' TOLD!
GIVE IT A REST, LOGAN.
YOU'RE LOVING EVERY MINUTE!
NATASHA'S A TOUGH KID, SERAPH.
BUT SOME THINGS NO KID SHOULD HAVE TO SEE.
YOU TOLD ME TO BE BRAVE, LITTLE UNCLE.
I FOUGHT THE WIZARD, AS HARD AS I COULD.
DID FINE, PRINCESS.
MADE ME PROUD.
BETTER SCOOT, BOY SCOUTS.
GOT MAYBE FIVE MINUTES 'FORE THIS STRIP TURNS INTO A WAR ZONE.
SHORT HOP OVER TO SINGAPORE. THEN, WEST TO INDIA, HANG A RIGHT...
... KID'S SAFE HOME IN MOTHER RUSSIA.
WE WORK PRETTY WELL TOGETHER, MISTER.
A SHAME TO BREAK UP SO POTENTIAL A TEAM.
APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT, CAP.
BUT I WORK ALONE.
DON'T NEED A SIDEKICK.
ACTUALLY ahem I MEANT er AS MY--
--WELL, NEVER MIND. PERHAPS IT'S FOR THE BEST.
TAKE CARE, LOGAN.
I HOPE WE MEET AGAIN.
ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE.
COUNT ON IT...
..."LITTLE UNCLE."
GRRRR

NOW...
NOT THEM?!
AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH, WOLVERINE--
--YOU DARE TELL ME IT'S NOT THEM!
'FRAID SO, WIDOW. RINGERS.
MUST BE GETTIN' OLD, NOT TO'VE SEEN THIS COMING.
ALL ALONG, THE CAPER FELL TOGETHER A SHADE TOO SMOOTHLY.
MUST'VE SET UP THIS DIVERSION THE MOMENT WE SHOWED OUR FACES...
...TO KEEP US BUSY WHILE THEY STAGED THE REAL MEET SOMEWHERE ELSE.
PROB'LY WATCHIN' THE SHOW RIGHT NOW, LAUGHIN' THEM-SELVES SILLY AT HOW COMPLETELY AN' EASILY THEY PLAYED US FOR CHUMPS.
I AM PSI-SCANNING THE CREW AND THE IMPOSTERS.
THEY POSSESS NO KNOWLEDGE THAT DOES US ANY GOOD.
FIGURED AS MUCH. LET IT GO, BETTS.
THEY KNOW YOUR CAPABILITIES, BOUND TO BE SHIELDED AGAINST 'EM.
THAT'S IT, THEN? WE JUST GIVE UP??
CAN'T WIN 'EM ALL, KIDDO.
HAPPENS EVEN TO THE BEST.
MEANS FROM NOW ON, WE'RE THAT MUCH MORE CAREFUL.
MAKE AS SURE AS WE CAN...
...THIS NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN.
A FORLORN HOPE, X-MEN.
WE INTEND TO MAKE SURE OF THAT!
TO VICTORY, MY FRIENDS!
THE FIRST OF MANY!
NEXT: ROGUE!

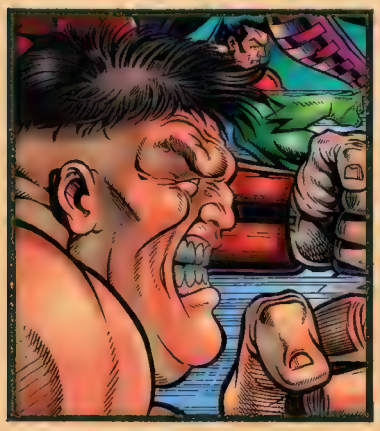
WITHOUT HYPERBOLE, THIS BOOK IN YOUR HANDS COULD BE CALLED A...

DREAM PROJECT!!

LEFT: **ED PISKOR** (GREEN SHIRT), AGE 7, AND COUSIN FRUSTRATED WHILE PLAYING THE **X-MEN** GAME FOR THE **NINTENDO ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM.**

ABOVE: THE BATTERED REMNANTS OF **ED'S** TOY COLLECTION EXCAVATED FROM HIS FOLKS' HOUSE.

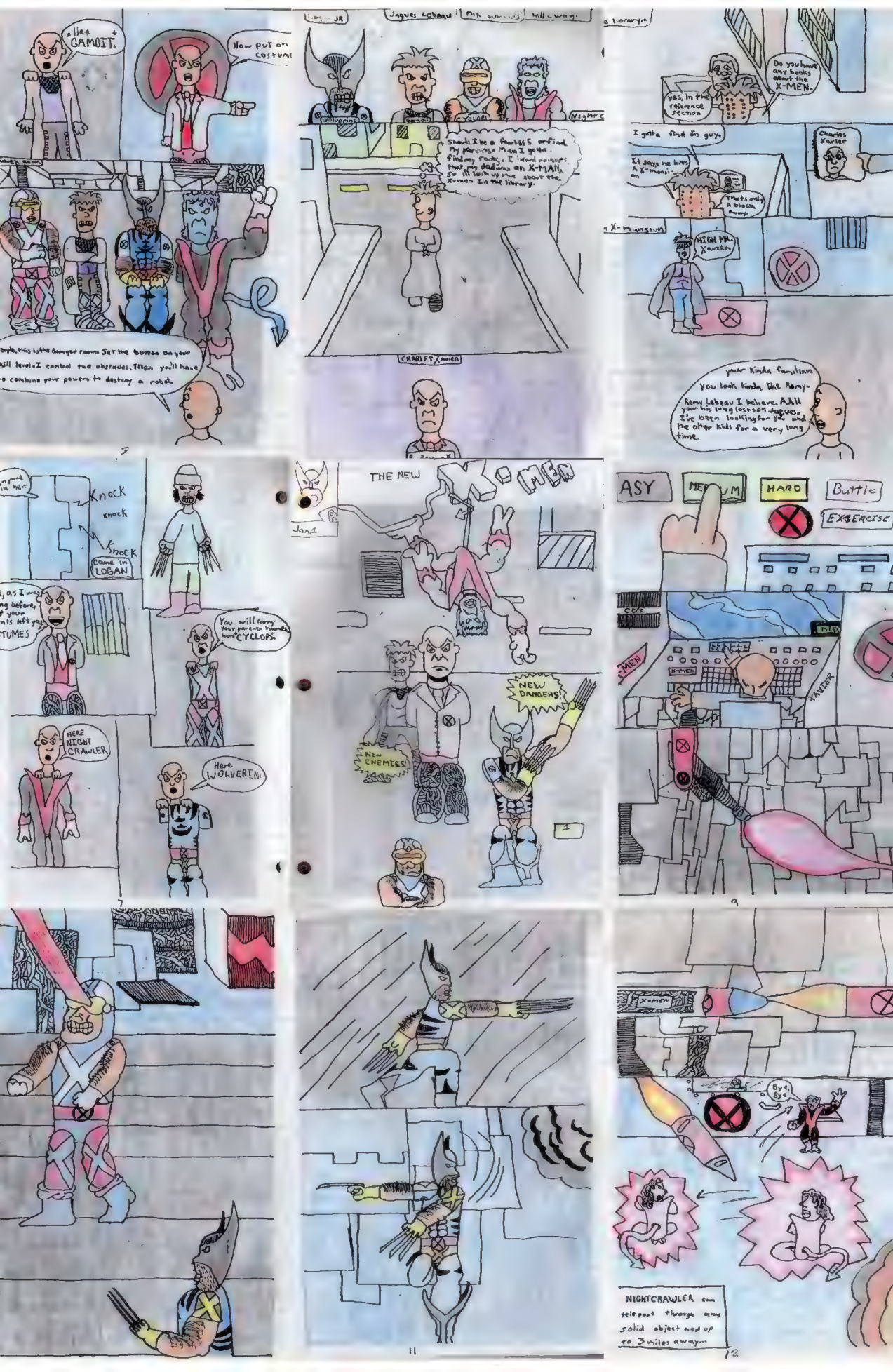
PISKOR'S PLAN WAS ALWAYS TO GROW UP AND MAKE COMIC BOOKS. HIS MOTHER, AN ARTIST IN HER OWN RIGHT, RECOGNIZED **ED'S** INTEREST IN DRAWING AND DID WHAT SHE COULD TO SHOW HIM THE ROPES. EARLY ON, HIS FAVORITE PAST TIME WAS COPYING DRAWINGS FROM **X-MEN** COMICS WITH HER.

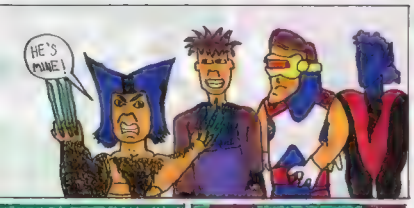


STEVEN BUTLER COVER DETAIL. **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL INDEX TO THE X-MEN,** VOL.2, NO.1, 1994

MOMMA PISKOR'S TAKE ON **THE BLOB.**

LITTLE **EDDIE PISKOR'S** INTERPRETATION.


Hey GAMBIT.
Now put on costume
Guys, this is the danger room. Set the button on your skill level. I control the obstacles. Then you'll have to combine your powers to destroy a robot.
Logan JR
Jaques Lebeau
Mik Summers
Will Kwang
WOLVERINE
GAMBIT
CYCLOPS
NIGHTCRAWLER
Should I be a hero? or find my parents. Man I gotta find my roots. I heard rumors that my dad was an X-MAN. So I'll look up info about the X-men in the library.
CHARLES XAVIER
a library
Do you have any books about the X-MEN.
Yes, in the reference section
I gotta find dis guy.
Charles Xavier
It says he lives in an X-mansion
That's only a block away
a X-mansion
HIGH MR. XAVIER
your kinda familiar
You look kinda like Remy-
Remy Lebeau I believe. AAH your his long lost son Jaques. I've been looking for you and the other kids for a very long time.
Knock
knock
Knock
Come in LOGAN
You will carry your parents name, but CYCLOPS
HERE NIGHT CRAWLER
Here WOLVERIN
THE NEW X-MEN
Jan. 1
NEW DANGERS!
New ENEMIES
EASY
MEDIUM
HARD
Battle
EXERCISE
CD's
X-MEN
XAVIER
Bye, Bye
NIGHTCRAWLER can teleport through any solid object and up to 3 miles away...


HE'S MINE!

SMOOTHE MOVE, WILL!
IT AIN'T MY FAULT YOUR FAT
R-R-R-ROAR!

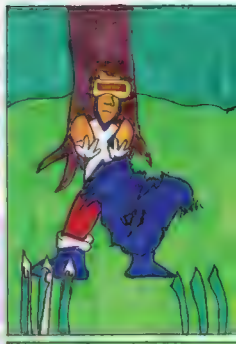
R-R-R

R-R-R-
ROAR!
SHIN-
G
SHING

4

WOLVERINE QUIT IT.

LET'S KICK SOME BUTT!
YOU KNOW THE PROFESSOR IS PROBABLY ANGRY AT YOU.



I WAS THINKIN' MONAMES WHAT IF DA AINT NO HOMUNCULUS MA CALLIS'.

5

BOTTAGE ITS THE PERFECT SET UP
PROFESSOR X TOLD US TO TAKE THE DAY OFF.
THEN WE PRETENDED LIKE WE IS IN TROUBLE THEN HE TOLD US TO COME HERE!

6

Jan. #2 94
THE NEW
X-MEN
SIMULATION CITY
GRAPHIC NOVEL

9

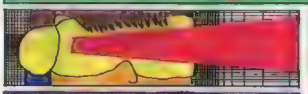
OVER THERE LOOK.

WHERE THE HECK WE AT?
I DON'T KNOW.

PLEASE BE A SIMULATION
WELL GET THIS ON THE COUNT OF 3, 2, 1.
3

8

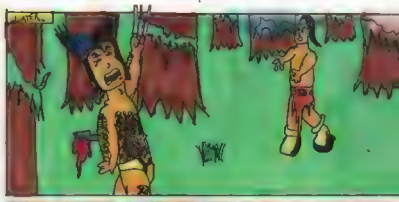
ODOFSH
SWA

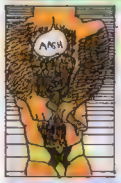


THANKS, I OWE YA ONE, CYKE.
BREAK DOWN THAT AND WE'LL CALL IT EVEN.

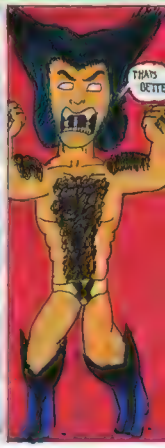
GEEGA

CONSIDER IT DONE!




AAGH

YOUR MAKE PUNY!


THAT'S BETTER

PREVIOUS TWO PAGES: **PISKOR** DREW OVER 1,000 PAGES OF COMICS AS A LAD. MANY OF THEM WERE **X-MEN** COMICS.

RIGHT AND BELOW: SADLY, ONLY THE COVERS TO THESE ISSUES STILL EXIST.

BOTTOM: WHAT PASSED FOR A DYNAMIC TEAM SHOT CONTAINING ALL OF **ED'S** FAVORITE CHARACTERS FROM THAT TIME.

PISKOR IS AN O.G. **DEADPOOL** FAN FROM WAY BACK.

TEENAGE **EDDIE P.** WAS HEAVY-HANDED AND RARELY FINISHED THINGS.

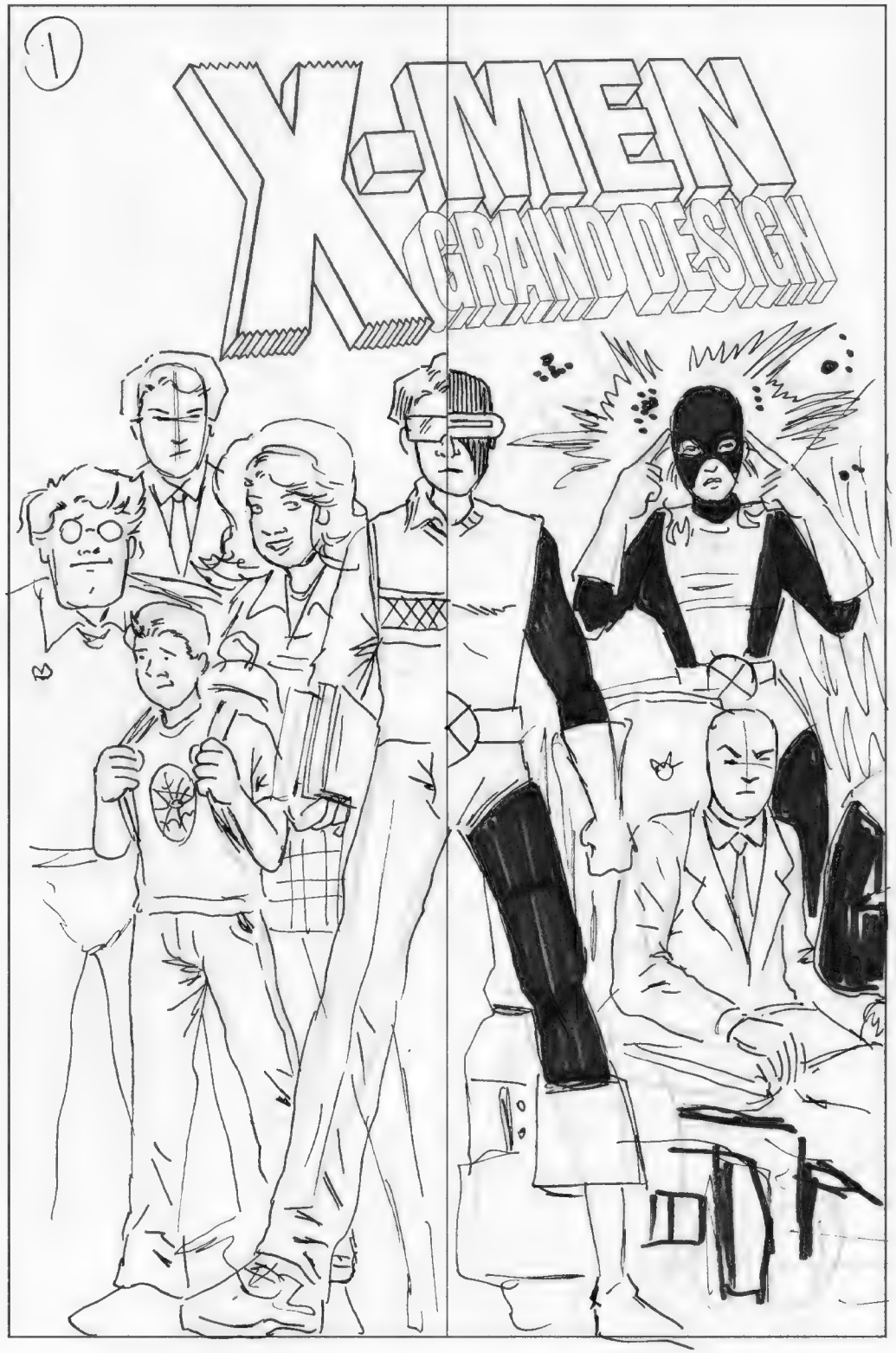
BELOW: AN ASSIGNMENT FROM **ED'S** ONE YEAR AT THE **KUBERT SCHOOL**.

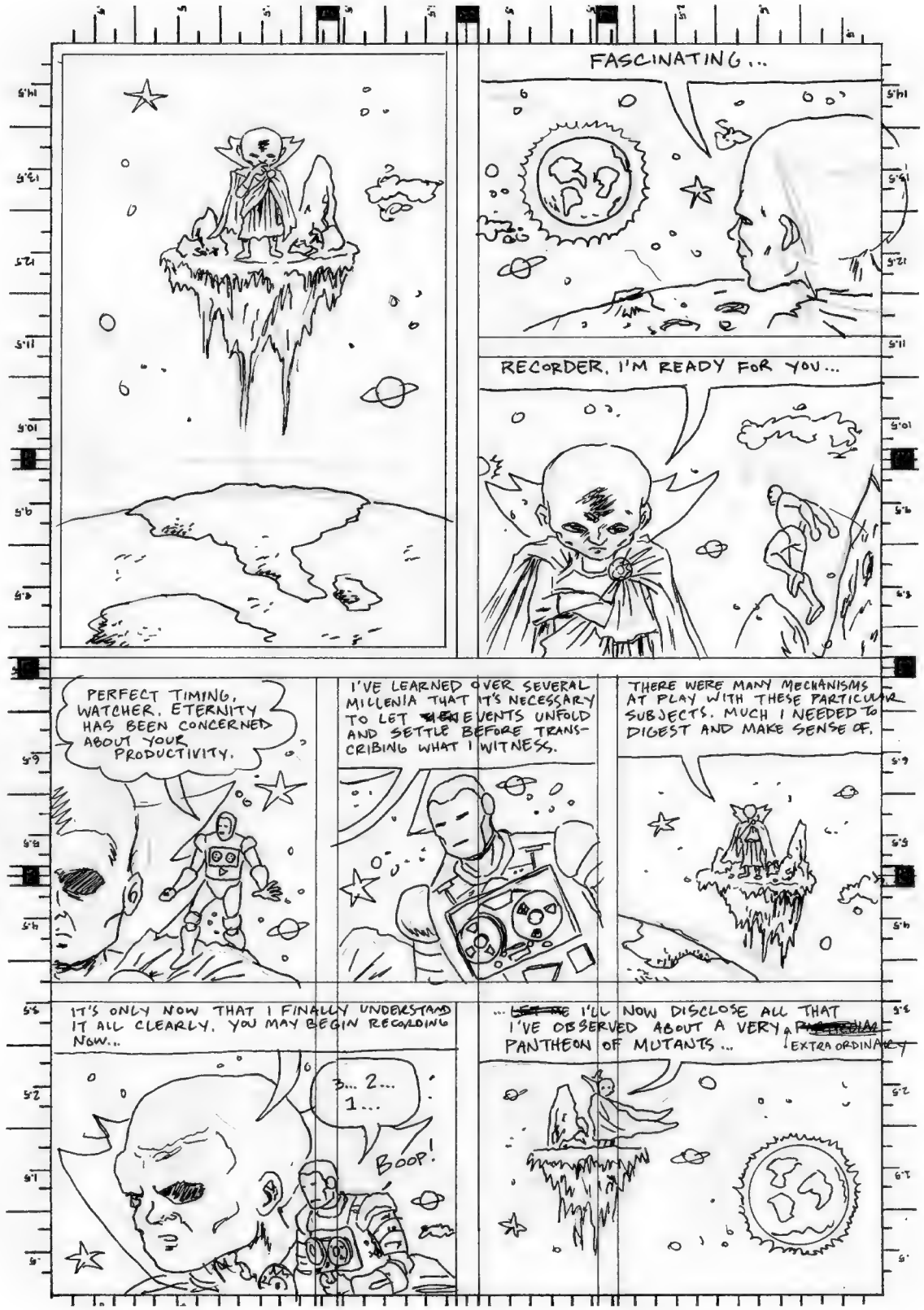
BELOW: A PIECE OF FAN ART THAT LED TO THIS BOOK'S CREATION.

ED PISKOR after SILVESTRI/GREEN

The Complete X-Men: Grand Design "Script"

Ed doesn't separate words from pictures when writing his comics.


1
X-MEN
GRAND DESIGN


FASCINATING...
RECORDER, I'M READY FOR YOU...
PERFECT TIMING, WATCHER. ETERNITY HAS BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR PRODUCTIVITY.
I'VE LEARNED OVER SEVERAL MILLENIA THAT IT'S NECESSARY TO LET EVENTS UNFOLD AND SETTLE BEFORE TRANSCRIBING WHAT I WITNESS.
THERE WERE MANY MECHANISMS AT PLAY WITH THESE PARTICULAR SUBJECTS. MUCH I NEEDED TO DIGEST AND MAKE SENSE OF.
IT'S ONLY NOW THAT I FINALLY UNDERSTAND IT ALL CLEARLY. YOU MAY BEGIN RECORDING NOW...
3... 2... 1...
BOOP!
... I'LL NOW DISCLOSE ALL THAT I'VE OBSERVED ABOUT A VERY EXTRAORDINARY PANTHEON OF MUTANTS...

"MUTANT" IS OFTEN VERBALIZED AS A PEJORATIVE TERM EVEN THOUGH THE VERY BASIS OF HUMAN EVOLUTION ON THIS SIMPLE WORLD REQUIRES MUTATION FOR ADAPTING TO NEW CONDITIONS.

HAW!

BUT, MA, WHY CAN'T TIMMY COME OVER TO PLAY ?

FOR SELF-PRESERVATION SAKE, THESE GENETICALLY-DIFFERENT "PARA-HUMAN'S" WOULD OFTEN OVER EXTEND THEMSELVE'S TO KEEP IN THE GOOD GRACES OF THE MASSES...

YAY! THANKS JEREMIAH!

NO TROUBLE AT ALL.

SQUISHY!

COME HERE YOU BAD GIRL!

WASH YOUR HANDS GOOD WHEN WE GET INSIDE.

THE TENSION BETWEEN HUMANS AND MUTANTS WAS PALPABLE FOR CENTURIES BUT PREJUDICES LARGELY REMAINED UNDER THE SURFACE UNTIL ONE FATEFUL DAY IN THE 2900'S WHEN EVERYONE'S WORST NIGHTMARES WERE REALIZED.

THINGS WOULD NEVER BE THE SAME AFTER THE NOTORIOUS MUTANT, NAMOR, SUBMERGED THE HEART OF NEW YORK CITY UNDERWATER KILLING TENS OF THOUSANDS AND DISPLACING MILLIONS...

EXTREME FEAR TENDS TO EASILY BLUR THE VISION OF SEEMINGLY REASONABLE PEOPLE.

DEATH TO MUTIES!

GIT 'EM OUTTA 'MERICA!

ON THE 50TH ~~DAY~~ NIGHT THAT NEW YORK REMAINED SUBMERGED UNDERWATER, THE IDEALISTIC HEROS OF THE DAY CONCEDED THAT THERE WERE NO MORE SURVIVORS TO LOCATE AND THEIR MISSION TRANSFORMED [redacted]

NO. THIS ONE ISN'T NAMOR EITHER.

AW SHUCKS

FIN, I WANT YOU TO SNAG EVERY STRAY ~~AREA~~ ATLANTEAN YOU FIND DOWN THERE UNTIL WE GET OUR PERPETRATOR

AYE-AYE ANGEL!

NO PERSON OR ORGANIZATION COULD FIGURE OUT HOW TO DIVERT THE PUTRID, STAGNANT, POISONOUS WATER AWAY FROM THE CITY UNTIL A COUPLE OF SCIENTISTS, SHARON AND BRIAN XAVIER CAME UP WITH A TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTION

THEY WERE ABLE TO [redacted] DRY OUT ~~THE~~ NEW YORK CITY IN MERE DAYS.

ONE WAY

THE XAVIER'S GENIUS WAS HANDSOMELY REWARDED WHEN THE ARMS MANUFACTURER, STARK INDUSTRIES BOUGHT THEIR TECHNOLOGY AND PUT THEM ON RETAINER.

THAT'S GREAT NEWS, DARLING.

I THINK WE HAVE ROOM FOR ONE MORE IN HERE HA HA..

STARK SOON RECEIVED COMMISSION FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO WORK ON A PROJECT SPLITTING THE ATOM FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. THE FIRST PHONE CALL HOWARD STARK MADE WAS TO THE XAVIERS.

FOR ALL THEIR ~~GENIUS~~, THE YOUNG COUPLE NEVER TOOK INTO CONSIDERATION THE EFFECT THAT THEIR WORK ENVIRONMENT WOULD HAVE ON THEIR OFFSPRING, ~~CHARLES~~.

HE'S DEFINITELY A BOY. HE'S TELLING ME SO

IT'S JUST HORMONES, DEAR.

WITHOUT EVEN BRINGING MUTANTS INTO THE EQUATION, HUMANITY HAS HAD NO TROUBLE FINDING CONFLICT AMONGST THEMSELVES. EACH GENERATION SEEMS TO DEFINE THEMSELVES BY THE WARS OF THEIR ERA.

<HELP!>*

LOGAN, NO!

* TRANSLATED FROM GERMAN

WE CAN'T BLOW OUR COVER YET.

SLAP!

~~THE~~ THAT'S JUST A KID THEY'RE HASSLIN'.

WHA?

BOP

GRAV

BOP

POW

POP

NOK

OOF

DING

BOF

POW

SO WHY'D YOU GET TO HOG ALL THE FUN, BUB?

I DIDN'T...

...IT FELT LIKE MY SHIELD WAS RIPPED FROM ME...

WHERE'D THE BOY DISAPPEAR TO?

SNIFF SNIFF

THE ARMS RACE TO THE ATOMIC BOMB COST MORE THAN JUST MANPOWER AND MONEY...

NO! BRIAN!!

A GIANT PIECE OF SHARON XAVIER DIED ALONGSIDE HER HUSBAND THAT DAY. THEIR SON, CHARLES KNEW FROM THAT MOMENT FORWARD THINGS WOULD NEVER BE THE SAME.

WHEN DR. KURT MARCO ~~AND HIS~~ SON MOVED INTO THE XAVIER MANSION A YEAR OR SO LATER, THEIR COLLEGUES IN THE MANHATTAN PROJECT WARNED SHARON. MARCO WAS A HARD GUY TO READ... BUT NOT FOR YOUNG CHARLES.

CHARLES! COME SHOW CAIN HIS NEW BEDROOM.

YES, MOMMY

THE STRESS OF THEIR FIRST DAY TOGETHER AS A FAMILY TRIGGERED SOMETHING IN THE XAVIER BOY...

CAIN MARCO! APOLOGIZE THIS INSTANT!!

UH...

SORRY...

CHARLES COULD HEAR DR. MARCO'S MIND AND ~~HIS~~ THOUGHTS WERE IN A ~~SOME~~ MISGUIDED, BUT HONEST PLACE. ~~HE~~ TRULY BELIEVED THAT THE MAN'S MANUFACTURING THIS RELATIONSHIP WOULD BE THE MIRACLE HIS POOR SON WOULD NEED TO BECOME A STABLE WELL ADJUSTED BOY. ~~LIKE CHARLES~~.

MAGNUS WASN'T SURE HOW HE WAS ABLE TO EVADE CAPTURE BY POSSESSING CAPTAIN AMERICA'S SHIELD.

HE WONDERS IF HE'D BE ABLE TO DO IT AGAIN IF HE TRIES HARD ENOUGH. THEN HE INSTANTLY DOESN'T DO ANY THINKING AT ALL...

MAGNUS WASN'T SURE IF IT TOOK HOURS, DAY, OR WEEKS TO REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS...

HE MARKED THE MONTHS OF HIS INCARCERATION BY SCRATCHING A NAIL INTO THE WOOD OF HIS MAKESHIFT BED. EACH NIGHT.

IF EVERYONE ELSE AROUND WAS SLEEPING, DEAD, OR DISTRACTED HE WOULDN'T USE HIS HANDS TO CHART THE PASSING DAYS. WITH THAT NAIL.

ARBEIT MACHI FREI

WHEN ENOUGH TIME ~~PASSED~~ WENT BY WITHOUT INCIDENT, THE NAZI'S WOULD FALL INTO A PREDICTABLE ROUTINE...

MAGNUS DISCOVERED WITH ENOUGH SECRET PRACTICE HE ACTUALLY DIDN'T HAVE TO TRY VERY HARD TO COMMAND AND CONTROL FERROUS METALS.

MAGDA, HURRY!

WHAT HAPPENED MAGNUS?

EVERYONE THOUGHT CHARLES XAVIER'S NEW HOMELIFE WAS THE CAUSE FOR HIS POOR PERFORMANCE IN SCHOOL...

HEY, GET OFF ME. SORRY SERK: I HOPE AN ONE NOTICES THIS PU

BLAH BLAH BLAH

IT PROVED MORE PRODUCTIVE TO LET THE BOY AUTODIDACTICALLY IMMERSE HIMSELF AT HOME.

AT XAVIER MANSION

IF CHARLES WOULD LET HIS GUARD DOWN, THE DREAMS, FANTASIES, AND NIGHTMARES OF HIS FAMILY WOULD SEEP INTO HIS CONSCIOUSNESS.

HELLO SAILOR. MOMMY DONT $16.00 TO MY NAME. POOR? YOU

CHARLES STEP-BROTHER, CAIN MARCO WOULD RARELY BE HOME SLEEPING WHEN EVERYBODY ELSE WAS.

Don't turn this robbery into a murder by trying cute stuff..

WHEN CAIN WAS ~~HOME~~ HE HAD A SINGLE PREOCCUPATION IN CHARLES MOST FAVORITE ROOM,

WE TRIED EVERYTHING TO GET IN THERE, CAIN.

NOT EVERYTHING. UNTIL WE USE LIQUID ADAMANTIAM,

CHARLES XAVIER'S SECOND FAVORITE ROOM WAS THE LABORATORY IN THE SUB BASEMENT. WHERE HIS PARENTS WOULD SHOW THE BOYS ALL MANNER OF ALCHEMY..

I THINK IT'S 1 PART NITRO-GLYCERIN TO 2 PARTS ADAMANTIUM FILINGS. IT BURNS AT 10,000 DEGREES

THE ~~WHITE~~ ESTATE AT THE NORTHEASTERN PART OF WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK WAS ABOUT 40 MINUTES AWAY FROM THE NEAREST FIRST RESPONDERS.

CHARLES DIDN'T HAVE TO READ THE ~~SECOND~~ FIREFIGHTERS MIND TO KNOW WHAT HE WAS ABOUT TO SAY. ~~IT WAS ALL OVER THE~~ THE MAN'S FACE TOLD THE STORY..

MOM!

I CAN'T HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS

KOFF!

SON, I'M SORRY.

SOMETHING DEEP IN CHARLES XAVIERS REPTILIAN BRAIN WISHED THAT CAIN MARCO WASN'T THE ONLY OTHER SURVIVOR THAT NIGHT...

XAVIER PURSUED AN ALMOST SPIRITUAL QUEST AROUND THE GLOBE TO GET HELP LEARNING HOW TO CALM THE VOICES INSIDE HIS MIND.

..MMMMMMMMMMMMA..

CHARLES HEARD TELL THAT THERE WAS ANOTHER LIKE HIM.

HE HAS NEVER TOLD A SOUL ABOUT HIS DETOUR THROUGH CAIRO, EGYPT.

WHOA!

OOF!

HEY!

STOP THAT GIRL!

HA HA HA HA

HA HA HA

WHO ARE YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO THIS LITTLE GIRL?

AMAHL FAROUK WAS A PLUNDERER AND A PIMP, PRACTICALLY A DESPOT OVER THE DESERT TOWN.

WHY DID YOU COME HERE, STRANGER?

THERE ISN'T ROOM FOR TWO OF US HERE...

BEG ME FOR MERCY, STRANGER

ARGH!

NO

HERO LOVER

IT TOOK TIME, RESOURCEFULLNESS AND HARD WORK, BUT MAGNUS AND MAGDA BUILT A TOLERABLE LIFE TOGETHER AFTER THEY GOT THE STENCH OF CAMP OFF THEM.

BUT, MAGNUS...

IT'S BEEN A YEAR AND THE PEOPLE HERE STILL WON'T SPEAK TO ME.

OF COURSE, THIS DOESN'T MEAN THEY'LL EVER FORGET THE ATROCITIES.

THEY TURN THEIR NOSE UP TO ME AND YOUR DAUGHTER.

WE'RE STILL NEW TO THE COMMUNITY. THESE ARE A PRIVATE PEOPLE.

MAGNUS HAS NO REAL TRADE BUT HE WOULD BREAK HIS BACK TO PROVIDE FOR HIS FAMILY, AND THE TOWNSPEOPLE KNOW IT.

BUT SIR, THIS IS ONLY HALF THE PAY YOU PROMISED.

IT'S PLENTY FOR YOU

BUT... BUT, PLEASE DON'T WALK AWAY, SIR! SIR!

PLEASE JUST PAY ME WHAT YOU PROMISED, I NEED IT, SIR!

YES, SURE, I'LL PAY

HEY, WHAT IS THIS?

THE OTHER FARMHAND DECIDED THAT MAGNUS MUST BE A WARLOCK OF SOME KIND.

BY THE TIME HE WAS ABLE TO SCRAPE HIMSELF OUT OF THE MUD AND HEAD HOME...

NO... NO...

No!

IF WE DON'T TAKE IT'S HEAD OFF...

IT WILL HAUNT THE VILLAGE ETERNALLY!

YES

HOW IS HE STILL ALIVE?

...UNGODLY CREATURE!

GET YOUR KNIFE, ELIAS..

YES

HERE, ELIAS!

SLIT HIS THROAT, FIRST!

YES

THERE IS ABOUT 3-4 GRAMS OF IRON IN THE HUMAN BODY. THIS SMALL AMOUNT OF MAGNETIC METAL IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CARRYING OXYGEN THROUGH OUT THE BODY.

TOOTHBRUSH

NO IRON. NO OXYGEN. PAINFUL, AGONIZING DEATH WITHIN FIVE MINUTES.

CHARLES XAVIER KNEW WHEN HIS BOOTS TOUCHED AMERICAN SOIL THAT HE'D IMMEDIATELY BE DRAFTED INTO ~~EUROPE~~ THE MILITARY FOR A WAR HE HAD NO INTEREST IN. HE HAD THE MONEY TO EVADE, BUT HE ~~DIDN'T~~ ~~ALONE~~ DIDN'T BOTHER.

X, MAN, THAT SNIPER HAD US DEAD TO RIGHTS. HOW'D YOU KNOW WHERE HE WAS?

JUST A FEELING, SIR...

HE WASN'T EXPECTING TO BE LUMPED INTO A PLATOON WITH CAIN MARCO.

STEP-BROTHER, I NEVER THOUGHT YOU HAD IT IN YA!

HA HA. IS THAT HIS BRAINS COMIN' OUTTA HIS EARS?

ON THIS FATEFUL DAY, THE BROTHERS WERE SIMPLY TASKED ~~WITH TRYING TO FIND~~ HIDDEN ENEMY WEAPON'S CACHES... ~~UN~~LOCATING

~~"ERGO~~ THEY ENDED UP IN PERHAPS THE LAST, TRACE PIECE OF EARTH DEVOID OF HUMAN CONTACT... EVER HAVING

CAIN. LET IT BE!

CAIN!

CAIN MARCO'S BODY WAS NEVER RECOVERED FROM THE WRECKAGE OF THE LOST TEMPLE OF CYTORAK...

CHARLES WAS LUCKY BUT HE DIDN'T WALK AWAY UNSCATHED...

~~BACK HOME A~~ IF ANYONE KNEW WHAT THE HONORABLY DISCHARGED VETERAN, CHARLES XAVIER WAS WORKING OBSESSIVELY ON BACK HOME IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY, HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY BE BRANDED A TERRORIST AND PROBABLY CHARGED WITH SEDITION.

"... MANDATORY DNA TESTING WHENEVER DOCTORS ACCEPT NEW PATIENTS."

"WHAT HAPPENS WE MAKE A MUTIE MAD ENOUGH? WE GOTTA RELY ON THE FANTASTIC FOUR FOR PROTECTION ALLA TIME?"

"REMEMBER NAMOR? ALL I GOTTA SAY!"

HE'S ALREADY BEING WATCHED AND CONSIDERED A POTENTIAL SUBVERSIVE ~~FOR~~ HIS EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AT UNIVERSITY.

NO TO REGISTRATION

UNIT

MUTANTS ARE PEOPLE TOO

IT WAS AT A MUTANTS RIGHTS DEMONSTRATION THAT HE MET HER...

WOW! WHO IS SHE?

MOIRA MACTAGGERT, ASPIRING PHD IN THE FIELD OF MUTANT RESEARCH AND GENTICS...

KEEP YE THOUGHTS TO YER SELF!

OOPS.

... A CRUCIAL MIND WITH A RARE QUALITY FOR CHARLES. MOIRA CAN TEACH HIM A THING OR TWO...

WAIT!

HOW'D YE DO 'AT?

IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS ~~MORE~~ XAVIERS NOW-SEMI-SECRET PROJECT WAS COMPLETED AND READY FOR TESTING. MOIRA'S TECHNICAL ABILITY MADE UP FOR THIS VOID IN CHARLES' SKILLSET...

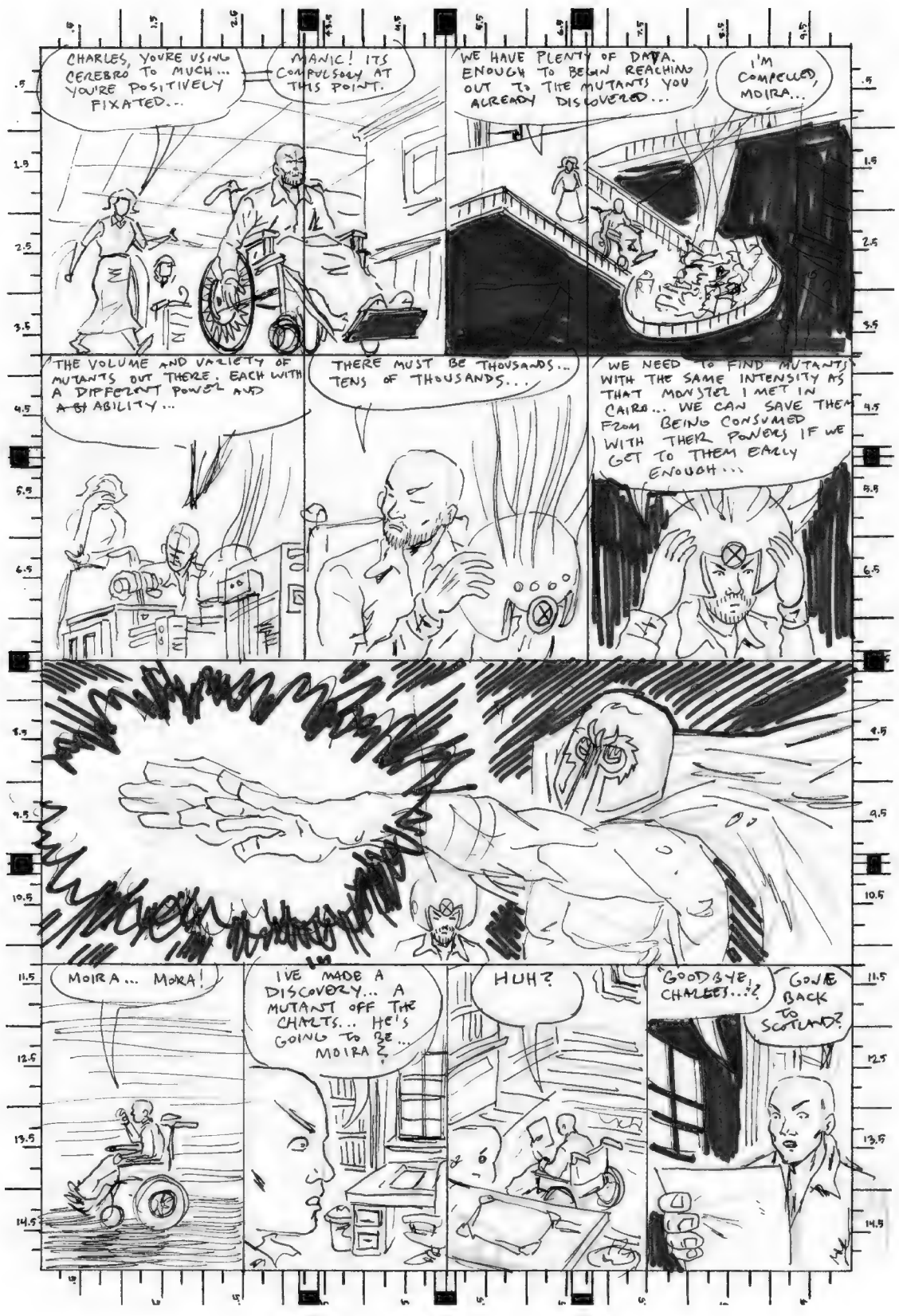
THAT'LL DO IT.

STAY OUT OF MY MIND, CHARLIE.

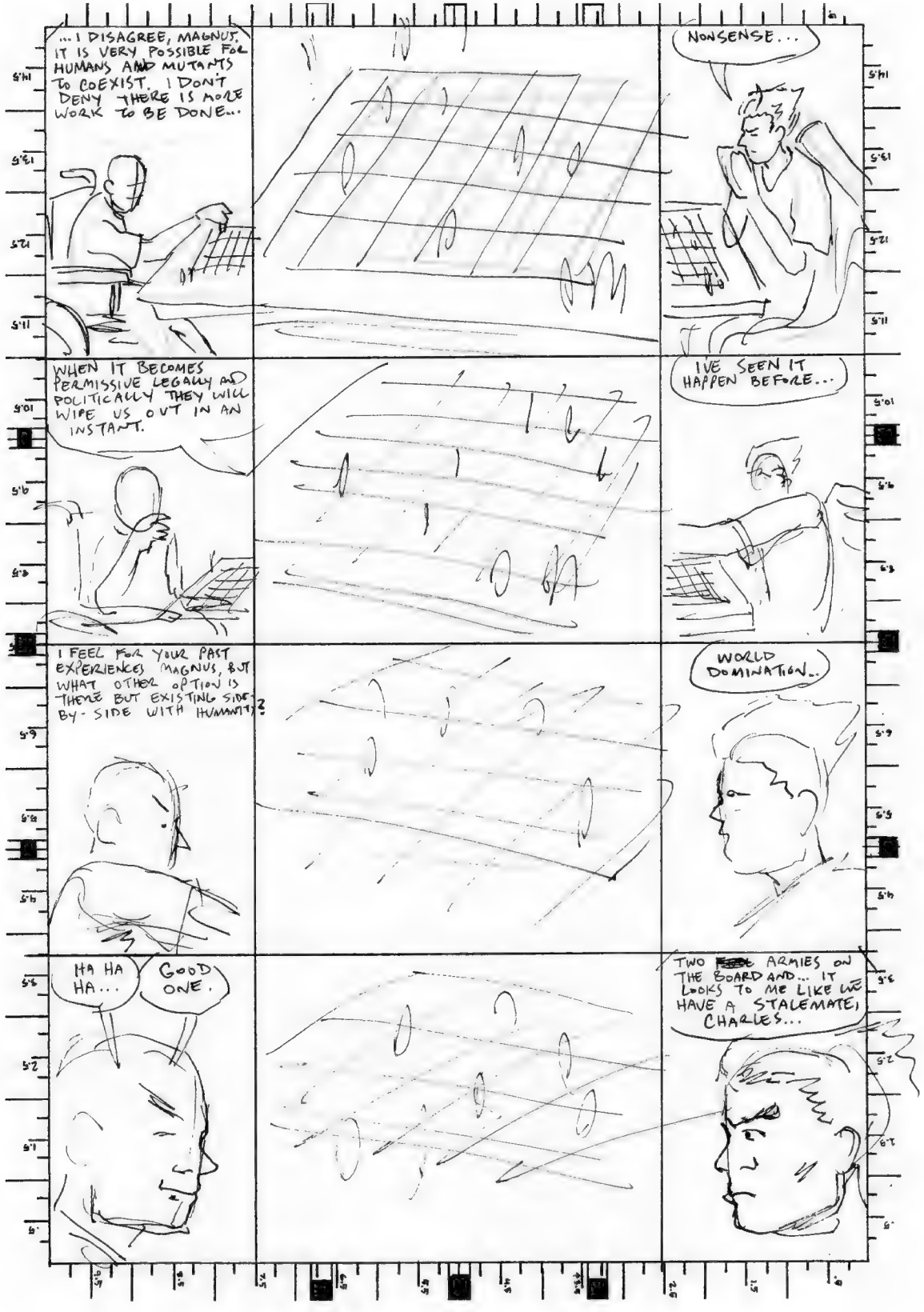
CEREBRO, A COMPUTER BUILT TO AMPLIFY CHARLES' MENTAL POWERS TO AID IN LOCATING MUTANTS...

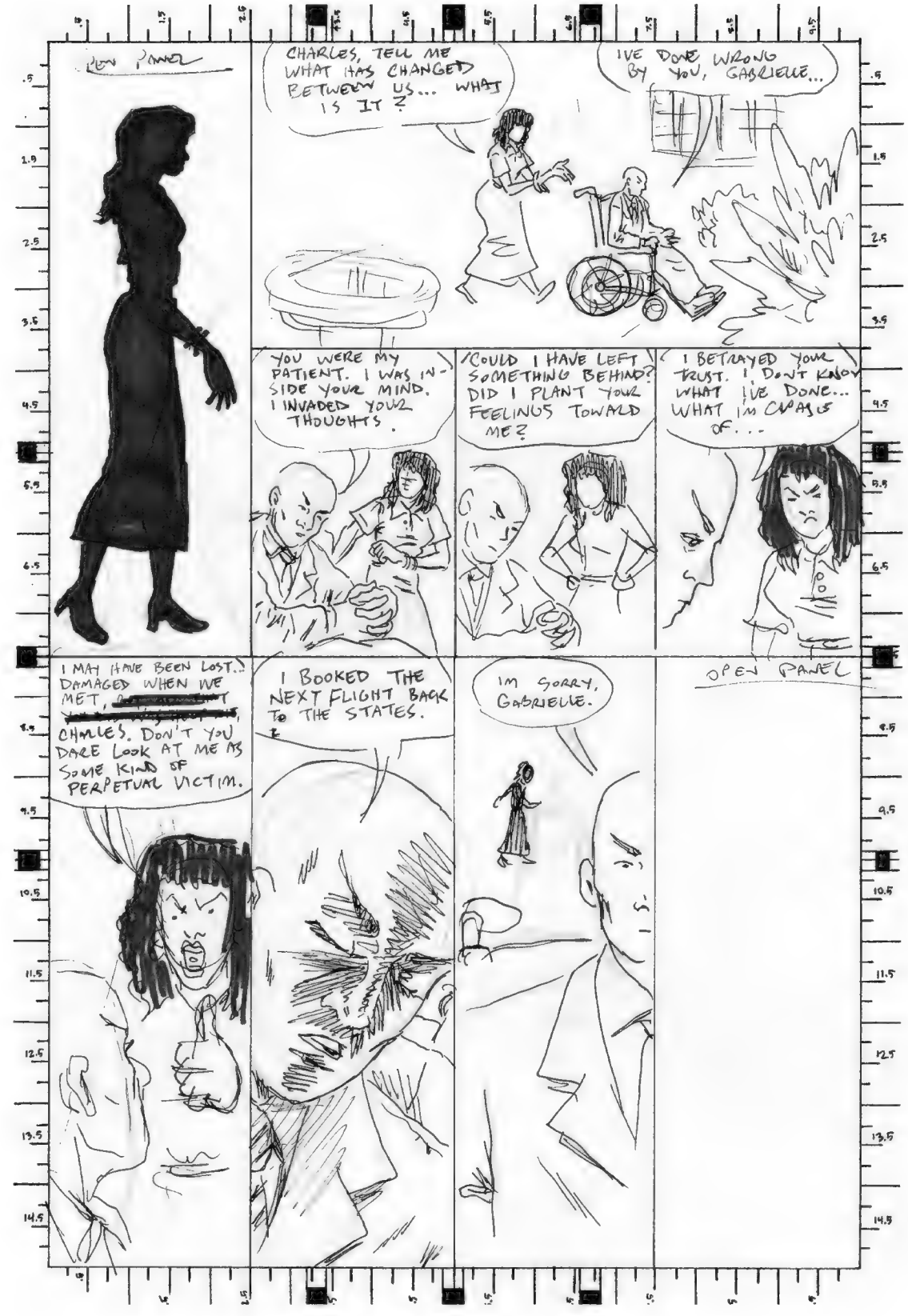
BE BACK SOON, MY LOVE...

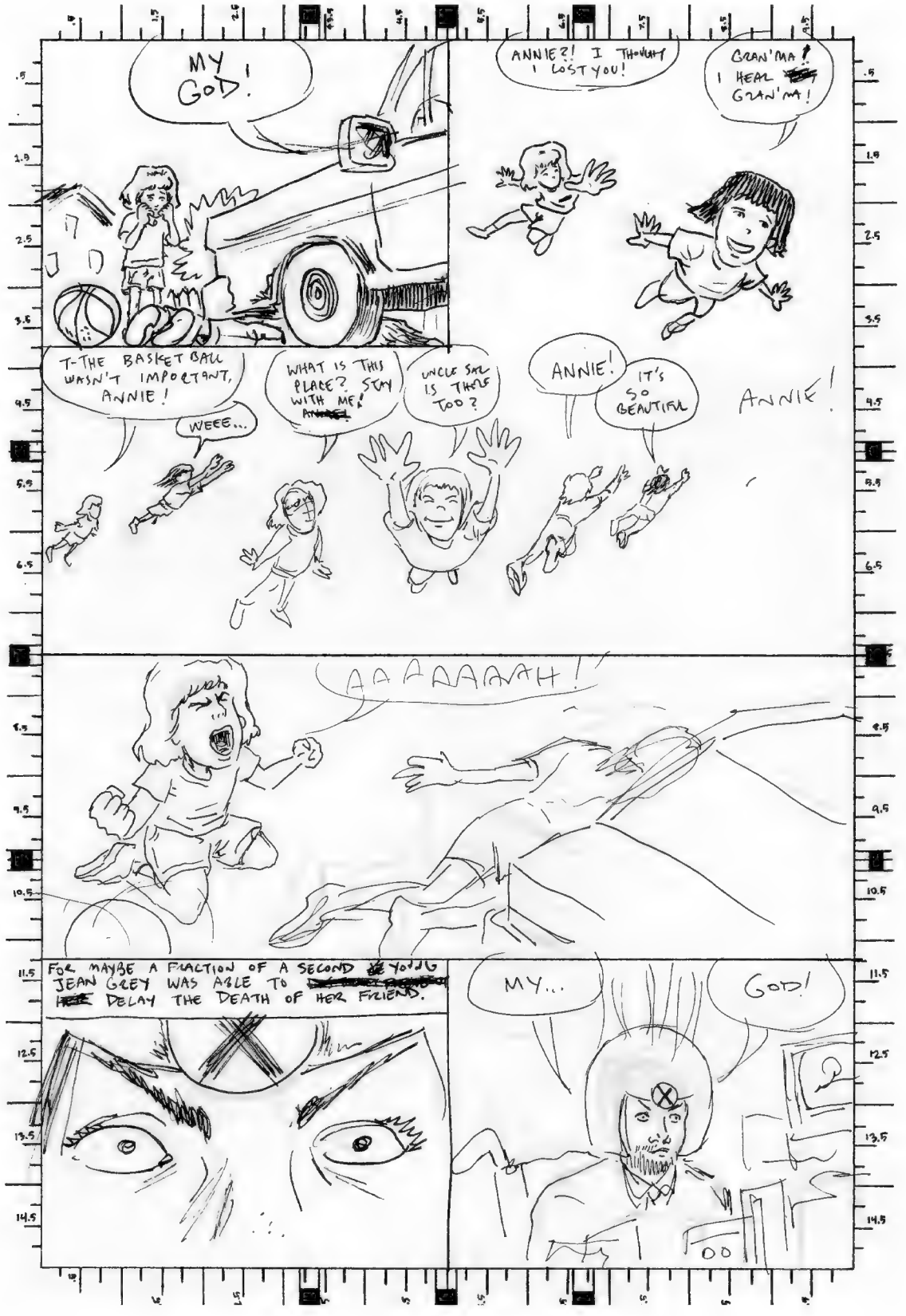
AT THE FLICK OF A SWITCH XAVIER IMMEDIATELY BECOMES LESS LONELY ON THIS TINY GLOBE...

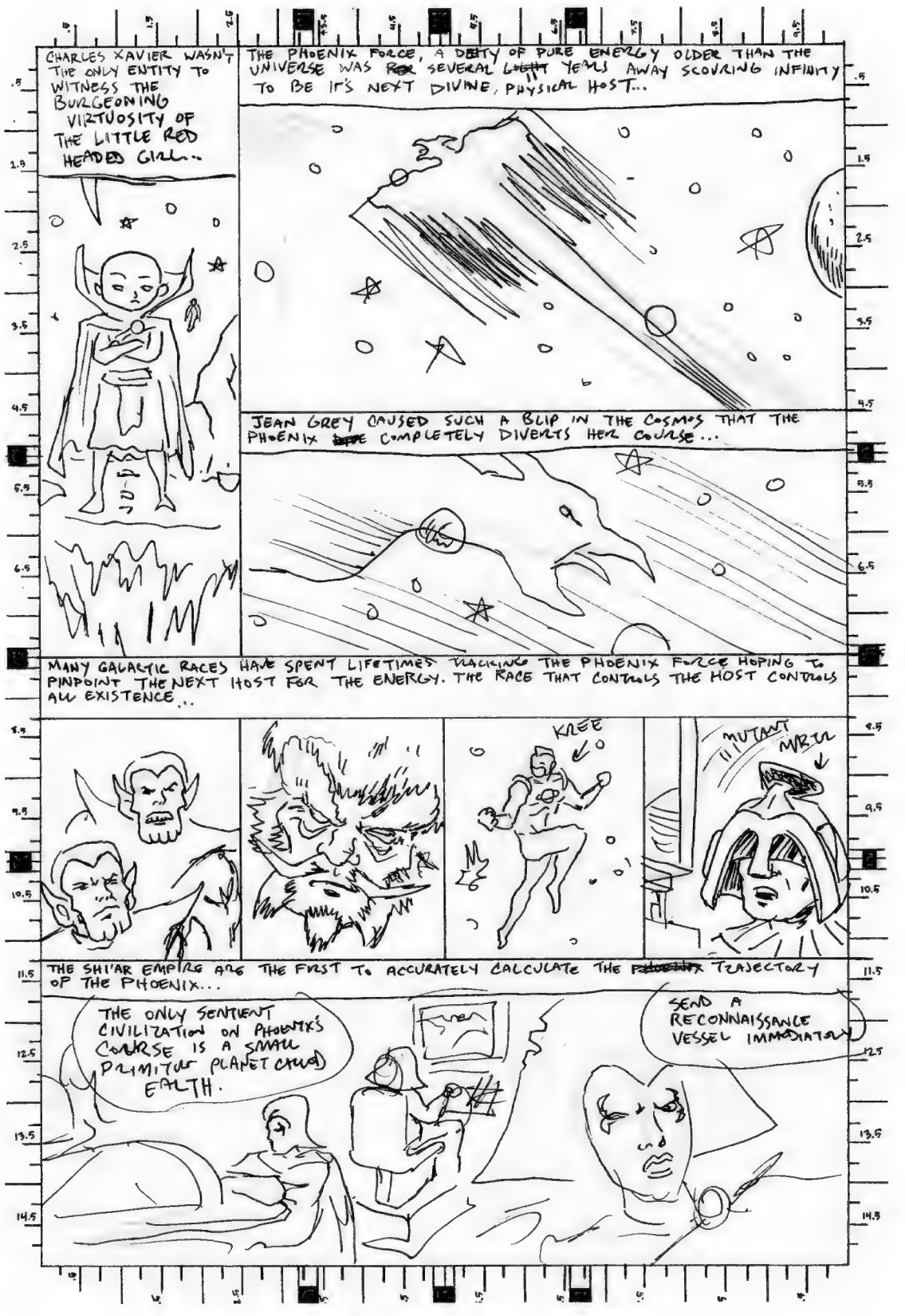

CHARLES, YOU'RE USING CEREBRO TOO MUCH... YOU'RE POSITIVELY FIXATED...
MANIC! ITS COMPULSORY AT THIS POINT.
WE HAVE PLENTY OF DATA. ENOUGH TO BEGIN REACHING OUT TO THE MUTANTS YOU ALREADY DISCOVERED...
I'M COMPELLED, MOIRA...
THE VOLUME AND VARIETY OF MUTANTS OUT THERE. EACH WITH A DIFFERENT POWER AND ABILITY...
THERE MUST BE THOUSANDS... TENS OF THOUSANDS...
WE NEED TO FIND MUTANTS WITH THE SAME INTENSITY AS THAT MONSTER I MET IN CAIRO... WE CAN SAVE THEM FROM BEING CONSUMED WITH THEIR POWERS IF WE GET TO THEM EARLY ENOUGH...
MOIRA... MOIRA!
I'VE MADE A DISCOVERY... A MUTANT OFF THE CHARTS... HE'S GOING TO BE... MOIRA?
HUH?
"GOODBYE, CHARLES...!?"
GONE BACK TO SCOTLAND?

ALMOST CUSTOMARILY CHARLES REPRESSES HIS LOSS BY ESCAPING THE BONDAGE OF HIS HOMELAND. THIS TIME HE HEADS TO ISRAEL TO PUT HIS PSYCHIC POWERS TO POSITIVE USE.
DR. XAVIER, YOUR REPUTATION PROCEEDS YOU...
HE DIDN'T RANDOMLY PICK THIS DESTINATION.
THANK YOU MAGNUS...
CHARLES, THIS IS GABRIELLE HALLEY. SHE'S OUR MOST SEVERE CASE OF CATATONIC SCHIZOPHRENIA...
MANY PATIENTS AND STAFF AT THIS HOSPITAL HAVE RECEIVED MAJOR TRAUMAS FROM BEING CONFINED IN VARIOUS CONCENTRATION CAMPS DURING THE BIG WAR...
THE PROGNOSIS AND TREATMENT BECOMES AN EXHAUSTING ROUTINE FOR XAVIER. NOW THAT HE'S GROWN DOMINION OVER HIS POWERS THIS IS THE ONE CIRCUMSTANCE HE ALLOWS HIMSELF TO INVADE THE MIND OF OTHERS WITHOUT PERMISSION.
THE BARRIERS, WALLS, OBSTACLES, AND DEMONS OF THE PATIENTS WEIGH HEAVY ON CHARLES.
WHEN CONQUERED, IT BECOMES WORTH IT IN THE END.
MOM?
DAD?
CONSCIOUS
ONE NIGHT AFTER HOURS WHEN THE VOLUNTEERS WERE ASSIGNED TO CLEAN AND MAKE-READY FOR NEW CONVALESCENTS...
MAGNUS?
LIFTING WITH SEO POWER
I WAS JUST CURIOUS IF YOU WERE THIRSTY?
WHAT?


...I DISAGREE, MAGNUS. IT IS VERY POSSIBLE FOR HUMANS AND MUTANTS TO COEXIST. I DON'T DENY THERE IS MORE WORK TO BE DONE...
NONSENSE...
WHEN IT BECOMES PERMISSIVE LEGALLY AND POLITICALLY THEY WILL WIPE US OUT IN AN INSTANT.
I'VE SEEN IT HAPPEN BEFORE...
I FEEL FOR YOUR PAST EXPERIENCES MAGNUS, BUT WHAT OTHER OPTION IS THERE BUT EXISTING SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH HUMANITY?
WORLD DOMINATION..
HA HA HA...
GOOD ONE.
TWO ARMIES ON THE BOARD AND... IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE WE HAVE A STALEMATE, CHARLES...


OPEN PANEL
CHARLES, TELL ME WHAT HAS CHANGED BETWEEN US... WHAT IS IT?
I'VE DONE WRONG BY YOU, GABRIELLE...
YOU WERE MY PATIENT. I WAS INSIDE YOUR MIND. I INVADED YOUR THOUGHTS.
COULD I HAVE LEFT SOMETHING BEHIND? DID I PLANT YOUR FEELINGS TOWARD ME?
I BETRAYED YOUR TRUST. I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'VE DONE... WHAT I'M CAPABLE OF...
I MAY HAVE BEEN LOST... DAMAGED WHEN WE MET, [redacted] CHARLES. DON'T YOU DARE LOOK AT ME AS SOME KIND OF PERPETUAL VICTIM.
I BOOKED THE NEXT FLIGHT BACK TO THE STATES.
I'M SORRY, GABRIELLE.
OPEN PANEL


MY GOD!
ANNIE?! I THOUGHT I LOST YOU!
GRAN'MA! I HEAR GRAN'MA!
T-THE BASKET BALL WASN'T IMPORTANT, ANNIE!
WEEE...
WHAT IS THIS PLACE? STAY WITH ME!
UNCLE SAL IS THERE TOO?
ANNIE!
IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL
ANNIE!
AAAAAAAAH!
FOR MAYBE A FRACTION OF A SECOND YOUNG JEAN GREY WAS ABLE TO DELAY THE DEATH OF HER FRIEND.
MY...
GOD!


CHARLES XAVIER WASN'T THE ONLY ENTITY TO WITNESS THE BURGEONING VIRTUOSITY OF THE LITTLE RED HEADED GIRL...
THE PHOENIX FORCE, A DEITY OF PURE ENERGY OLDER THAN THE UNIVERSE WAS SEVERAL YEARS AWAY SCOURING INFINITY TO BE IT'S NEXT DIVINE, PHYSICAL HOST...
JEAN GREY CAUSED SUCH A BLIP IN THE COSMOS THAT THE PHOENIX COMPLETELY DIVERTS HER COURSE...
MANY GALACTIC RACES HAVE SPENT LIFETIMES TRACKING THE PHOENIX FORCE HOPING TO PINPOINT THE NEXT HOST FOR THE ENERGY. THE RACE THAT CONTROLS THE HOST CONTROLS ALL EXISTENCE...
KREE
MUTANT MRTN
THE SHI'AR EMPIRE ARE THE FIRST TO ACCURATELY CALCULATE THE TRAJECTORY OF THE PHOENIX...
THE ONLY SENTIENT CIVILIZATION ON PHOENIX'S COURSE IS A SMALL PRIMITIVE PLANET CALLED EARTH.
SEND A RECONNAISSANCE VESSEL IMMEDIATELY

SCOTT, ALEX. BUCKLE UP. IT MIGHT START GETTING ROUGH.
I SPY A CLOUD THAT LOOKS LIKE.... GALACTUS!
HA HA HA. I SEE IT, TOO.
I SPY A CLOUD THAT LOOKS LIKE....
HEY, DAD! WHAT IS THAT THING?
KATHERINE! YOU AND THE KIDS PARACHUTES NOW!
THERE'S ONLY ONE, CHRISTOPHER! ONE PARACHUTE!!
AN IMPRESSIVE SHI'AR SPACE VEHICLE
JUMP WITH THE BOYS!
PURE BLACK AND WHITE PANEL
I'M NOT LEAVING YOU

THE PILOT, CHRISTOPHER SUMMERS, AND HIS WIFE WERE BEAMED ABOARD THE SHI'AR SPACE VESSEL AT THE MOMENT BEFORE THEIR CESSNA DISINTEGRATED.
MY BOY
MONSTER!
(NOOOO!)
SUMMERS FOUGHT GALLANTLY AT FIRST. HE HAD NOTHING TO LOSE
WHEN HIS ADRENALINE WORE OFF HE REALIZED HE, IN FACT, HAD NOTHING TO FIGHT FOR. ZERO...
THE UNFORTUNATE THING ABOUT THE HUMAN INSTINCT FOR SELF PRESERVATION IS THAT IT STILL KICKS IN EVEN WHILE ON A PLANET-SIZED PRISON COLONY.
MOVE, GRUB!
YES, MASTER.
SUMMERS WALKED PAST THE BOUND MONSTER LONG ENOUGH TO SEE THE CREATURE WITHER TO ABOUT HALF ITS ORIGINAL SIZE.
QUIT LOOKING AT IT, GRUB!
CH'OD
FOR SOME REASON, SUMMERS ALL OF THE SUDDEN GREW TIRED OF HEALING THE CREATURE WHIMPER
QUIT CALLIN ME GRUB!
STAB
C'MON, BUDDY. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE COMPANY IN A MINUTE.
FRIEND!
CH'OD

THE SUMMERS' BOYS PARACHUTE WAS LIKE A FLAMING BEACON FOR HELP ~~WHEN~~ BEFORE THEY SMASHED INTO THE REMOTE COUNTRYSIDE.

SCOTT....

SCOTT... ARE YOU... OKAY?

AFTER THE STATE WAS SATISFIED THAT THE PARENTS WERE OUT OF THE PICTURE, ALEX SUMMERS WAS ADOPTED BY A NICE, ENCOURAGING COUPLE WHO PROMOTED HARD WORK AND STRONG ACADEMICS.

CAN WE VISIT MY BROTHER NEXT WEEK-END?

SCOTT SUMMERS WAS LESS FORTUNATE. THE DOCTORS COULDN'T TELL THE EXTENT OF ANY POSSIBLE BRAIN DAMAGE WHILE THE BOY LAY COMATOSE.

HE WOKE UP A YEAR LATER...

HELP!

HELP ME!

EXCUSE ME, JEAN.

PLEASE DON'T BE FRIGHTENED. MY NAME IS CHARLES.

HUH?

I'VE BEEN HERE FOR A LONG TIME AND YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON I'VE SEEN.

THAT'S WHY I'M HERE, JEAN. WHY DO YOU CHOOSE TO STAY? ~~HERE~~. ISN'T IT LONELY?

MY FRIEND ANNIE WILL BE SCARED IF I'M NOT HERE WHEN SHE GETS BACK...

OH, CHILD. I'M SO SORRY. ANNIE ISN'T COMING BACK I'M SAD TO SAY...

YOU'RE WRONG!

I KNOW I CAN BRING HER BACK IF I TRY HARD ENOUGH...

I WAS SENT HERE TO FIND YOU BY YOUR MOMMY AND DADDY. THEY REALLY MISS YOU.

I MISS THEM TOO. DO YOU THINK THEY'LL BE MAD AT ME BECAUSE I'VE BEEN IN THIS PLACE FOR SO LONG?

NOT AT ALL. THEY'RE GOING TO BE THRILLED TO SEE YOU

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE FOOD, JEAN?

JEAN!

MY BABY!

MOMMY, DADDY.

CAN WE GO OUT FOR SOME PIZZA? I'M HUNGRY.

FOR YEARS SCOTT SUMMERS COULDN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING BEFORE HE WAS PULLED FROM THE RUBBLE AT THE HOSPITAL...

I... I GET HEADACHES IF I DON'T WEAR THEM...

BUT, YOU LOOK LIKE A DAMN GOOFUS, SLIM...

NO ONE SUSPECTED A MUTANT WAS BEHIND THE DESTRUCTION. THAT KNOWLEDGE WOULD HAVE INCITED WAR.

HEY!

LET ME TRY 'EM OUT. IT'S ONLY FAIR...

EYES CLOSED

SCOTT IS NEARLY AGING OUT OF THE ORPHANAGE. HE'S THE OLDEST CHILD IN THE SYSTEM AND DOESN'T RELATE TO THE YOUNGSTERS.

I HAVE A NOTE FROM THE DOCTOR TO WEAR THEM.

~~I DON'T THINK I CAN EVER BOLT THESE OFF.~~

BW... YOU NEED 'EM MORE THAN ME, FOR SURE!

BEING AROUND KIDS HIS HIGH SCHOOL AGE DOESN'T PROVIDE MUCH COMFORT EITHER, HONESTLY.

~~WHY~~ QUIT LOOKING AT ME THAT WAY.

YER GROSSING ME OUT. HERE...

UGH

HE'S DIFFERENT THAN THE OTHER KIDS...

WHA?

TAKE YOUR GLASSES...

RUN!

No! wait!

HE'S A MUTIE!

HE'LL KILL US ALL

PANT...

PANT...

PANT... IT WASN'T MY FAULT

THE WOODS

IT ~~WASN'T~~ MY FAULT

THIS MARKS THE FOURTH DAY BRIGHTON HEIGHTS STUDENT SCOTT SUMMERS HAS INEXPLICABLY GONE MISSING... TREVOR DONAVAN WAS THE LAST KNOWN PERSON TO CHAT WITH SUMMERS.

SCOTT SUMMERS

I DONT KNOW. WE WERE TALKING FASHION OR SOMETHING AND HE JUST SPAZZED OUT AND RAN AWAY. KEPT SAYING "SORRY TREVOR!" "IT WASN'T MY FAULT, TREVOR...

XAVIER COULDN'T BE SURE WHO WAS IMPLANTING HALLUCINATIONS INTO SCOTT SUMMERS MIND. ~~HE COULD NOTE DIRECT ACCESS TO THE BOY TO FIGURE OUT THE MYSTERY.~~

HE WOULD NEED DIRECT ACCESS TO THE BOY TO FIGURE OUT THIS MYSTERY.

MR SINISTER SHADOW

ONE THING IS CERTAIN, SCOTT SUMMERS POWERS ARE RAPIDLY MATURING AND IT WOULD BE DEVASTATING IF HE FELL INTO CRIMINAL HANDS.

SEE, BOSS, I WASN'T LYIN' TO YA!

THIS IS BAD FOR US.

CABIN RUINS

ZZZZZ...

LOOKIT, 'IM. HE'S A RIPE SQUARE. HIS MUMMY PROB'LY GOTTA SEARCH PARTY HUNTIN FOR 'IM AS WE SPEAK.

HMMM?

No!

HA HA HA HA

YOU WON'T TAKE ME AWAY!

WELL YOUNG'UN. LOOKS LIKE WE GOTTA COUPLE THINGS IN COMMON.

WE'RE BOTH MUTIES AN' WE'RE BOTH ONNA RUN.

PUT 'ER THERE...

NAME'S JACK O' DIAMONDS!

SCOTT WAS LOOKING FOR HELP. FOR GUIDANCE. IT WAS EASY FOR JACK TO APPEAL TO THE BOY.

YOU SURE HE CAN HELP US?

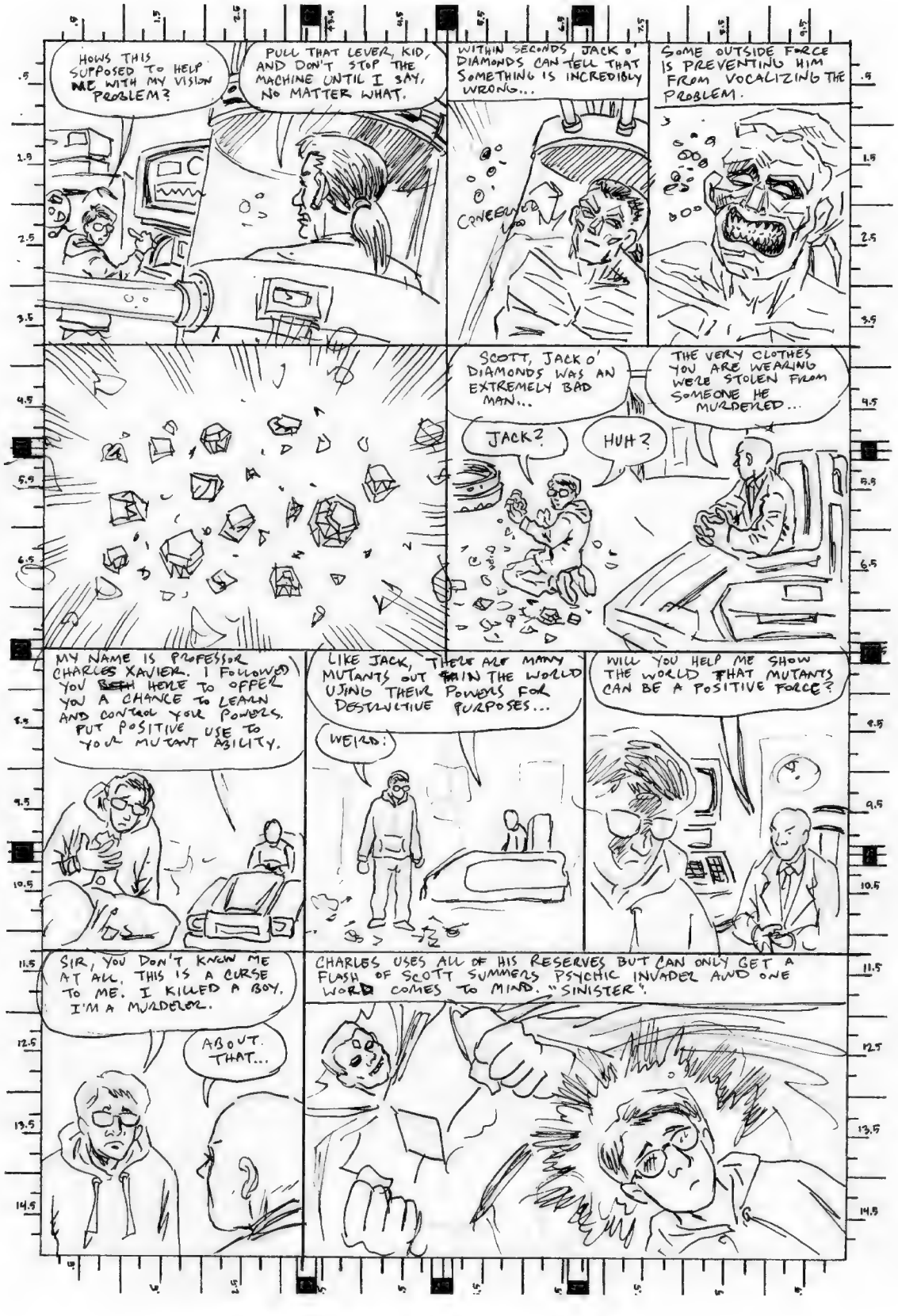
KEEP MOVIN', KID.

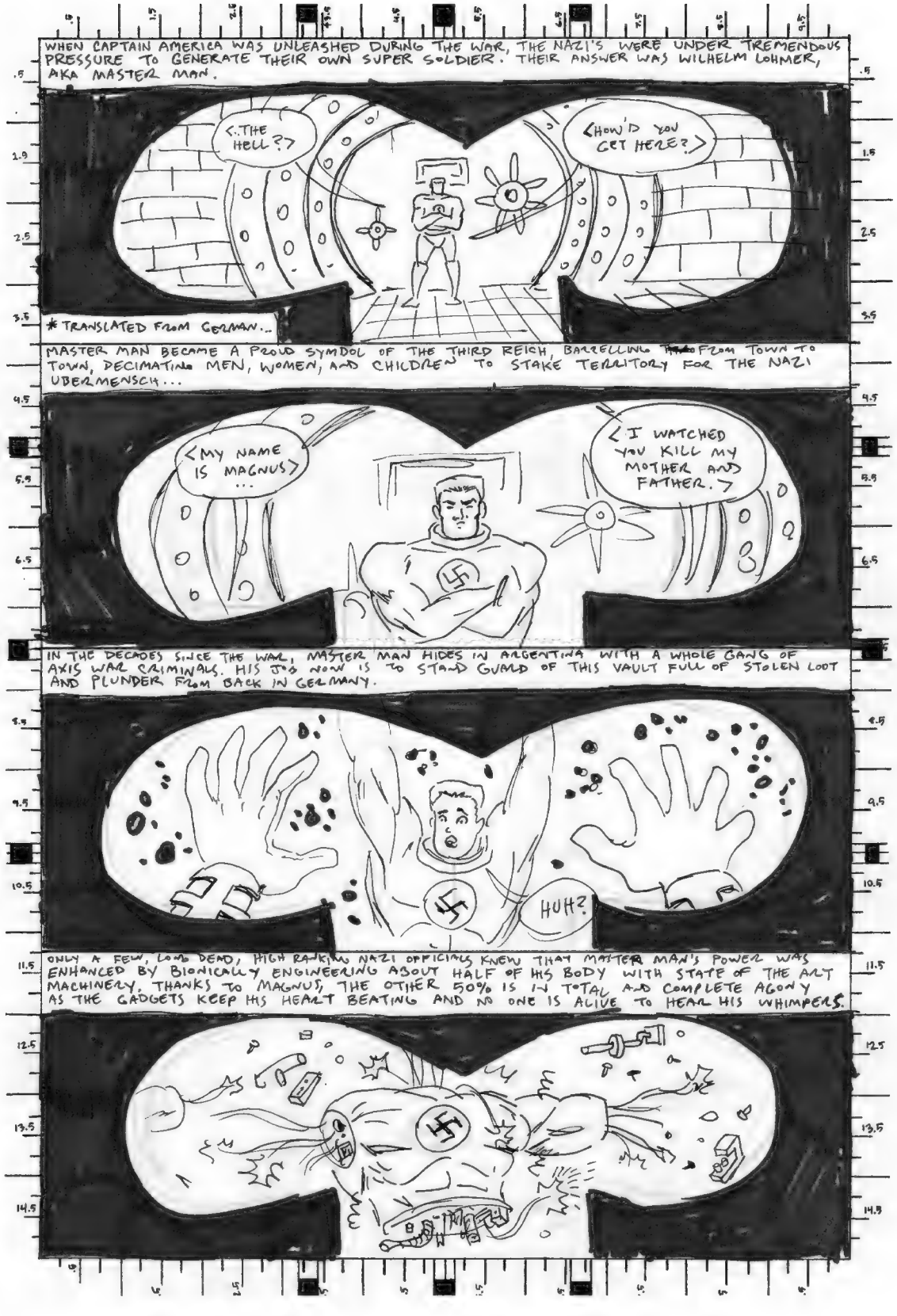
SENTINEL

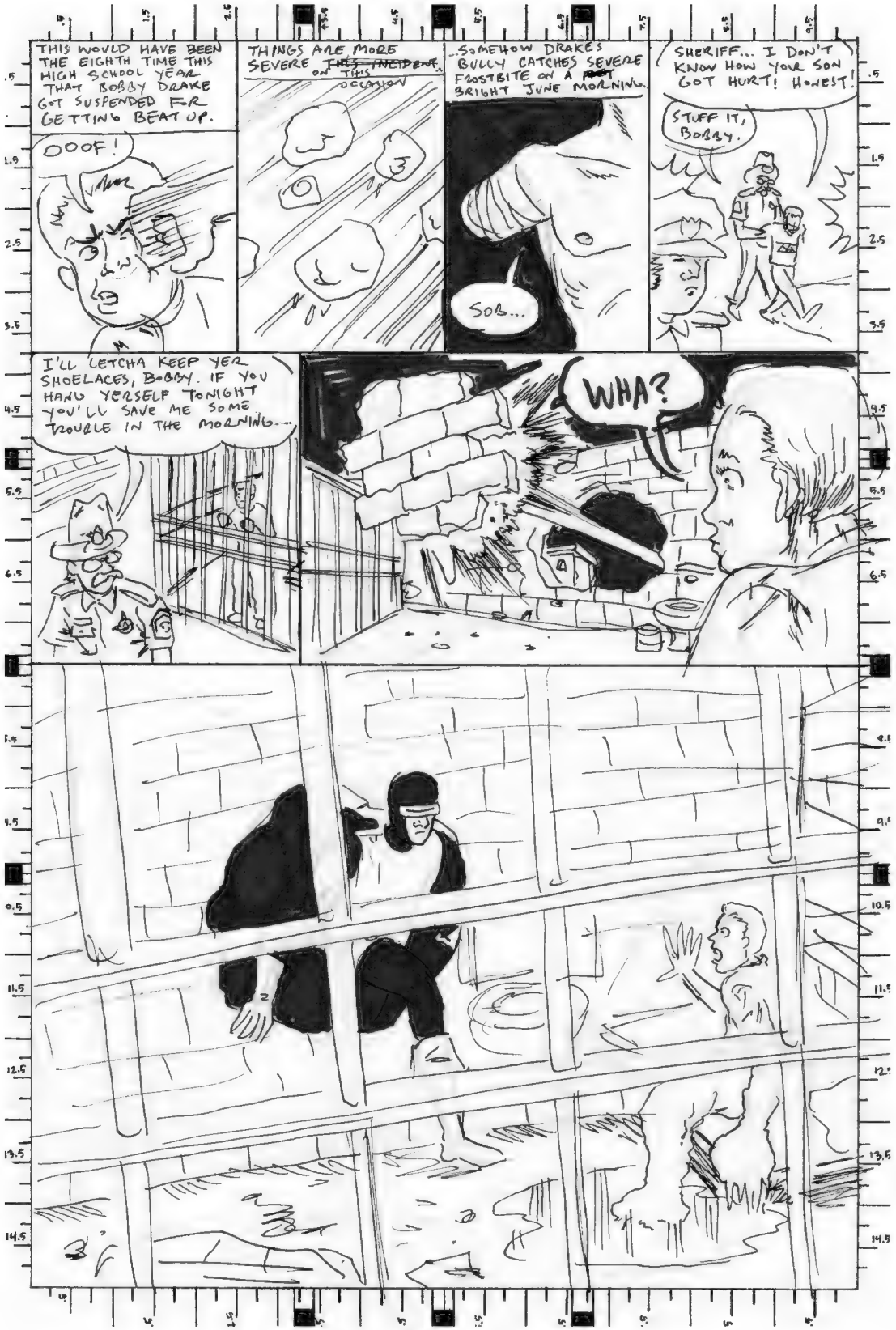
BLAST RIGHT ABOUT THERE!

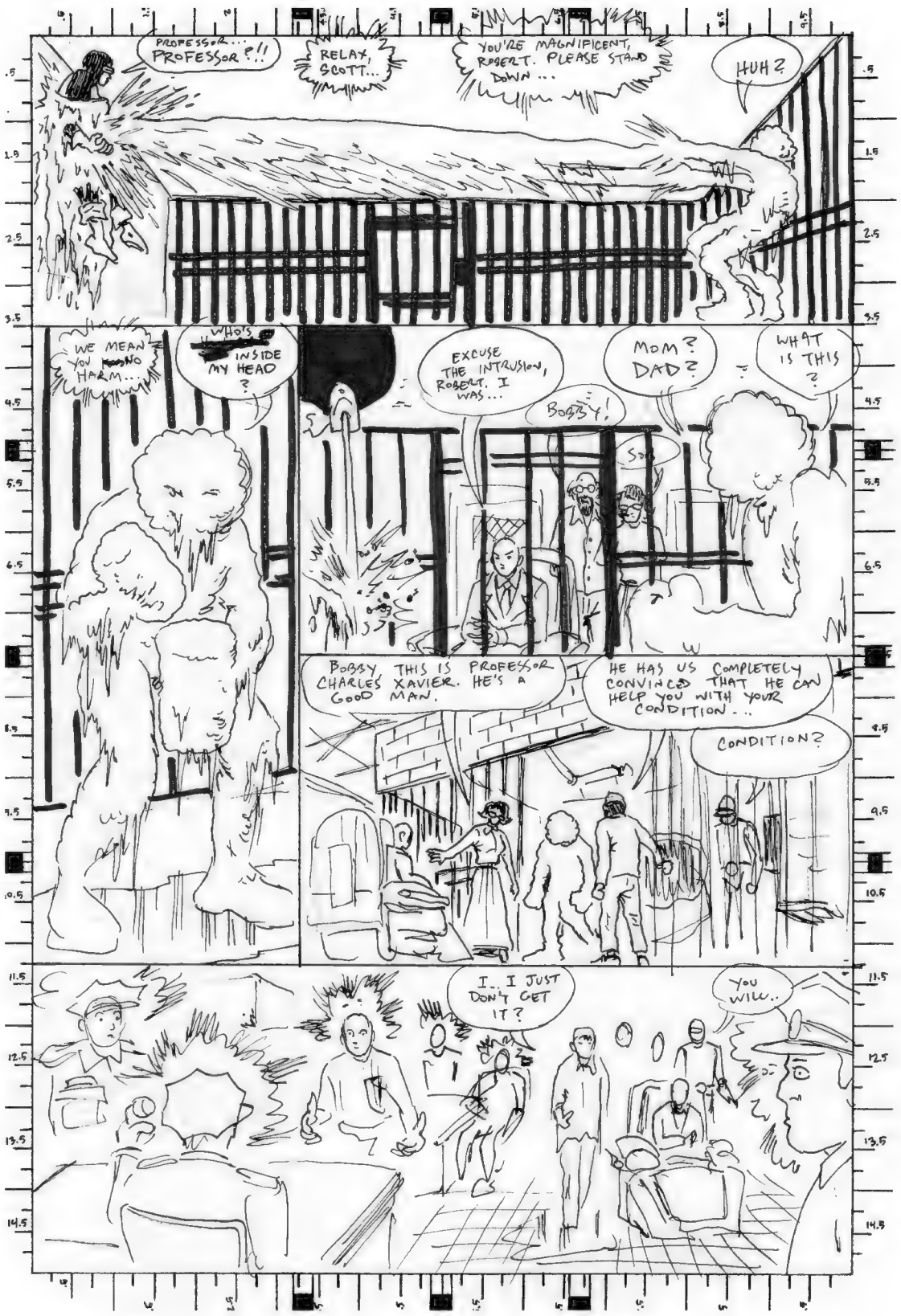
GOOD KID, GOOD KID.

I DON'T GET IT, JACK?


HOWS THIS SUPPOSED TO HELP ME WITH MY VISION PROBLEM?
PULL THAT LEVER, KID, AND DON'T STOP THE MACHINE UNTIL I SAY, NO MATTER WHAT.
WITHIN SECONDS, JACK O' DIAMONDS CAN TELL THAT SOMETHING IS INCREDIBLY WRONG...
SOME OUTSIDE FORCE IS PREVENTING HIM FROM VOCALIZING THE PROBLEM.
CONFUSED
SCOTT, JACK O' DIAMONDS WAS AN EXTREMELY BAD MAN...
THE VERY CLOTHES YOU ARE WEARING WERE STOLEN FROM SOMEONE HE MURDERED...
JACK?
HUH?
MY NAME IS PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER. I FOLLOWED YOU HERE TO OFFER YOU A CHANCE TO LEARN AND CONTROL YOUR POWERS. PUT POSITIVE USE TO YOUR MUTANT ABILITY.
LIKE JACK, THERE ARE MANY MUTANTS OUT IN THE WORLD USING THEIR POWERS FOR DESTRUCTIVE PURPOSES...
WEIRD.
WILL YOU HELP ME SHOW THE WORLD THAT MUTANTS CAN BE A POSITIVE FORCE?
SIR, YOU DON'T KNOW ME AT ALL. THIS IS A CURSE TO ME. I KILLED A BOY. I'M A MURDERER.
ABOUT THAT...
CHARLES USES ALL OF HIS RESERVES BUT CAN ONLY GET A FLASH OF SCOTT SUMMERS PSYCHIC INVADER AND ONE WORD COMES TO MIND. "SINISTER".


WHEN CAPTAIN AMERICA WAS UNLEASHED DURING THE WAR, THE NAZI'S WERE UNDER TREMENDOUS PRESSURE TO GENERATE THEIR OWN SUPER SOLDIER. THEIR ANSWER WAS WILHELM LOHMER, AKA MASTER MAN.
<THE HELL?>
<HOW'D YOU GET HERE?>
* TRANSLATED FROM GERMAN...
MASTER MAN BECAME A PROUD SYMBOL OF THE THIRD REICH, BARRELLING FROM TOWN TO TOWN, DECIMATING MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN TO STAKE TERRITORY FOR THE NAZI UBERMENSCH...
<MY NAME IS MAGNUS> ...
<I WATCHED YOU KILL MY MOTHER AND FATHER.>
IN THE DECADES SINCE THE WAR, MASTER MAN HIDES IN ARGENTINA WITH A WHOLE GANG OF AXIS WAR CRIMINALS. HIS JOB NOW IS TO STAND GUARD OF THIS VAULT FULL OF STOLEN LOOT AND PLUNDER FROM BACK IN GERMANY.
HUH?
ONLY A FEW, LONG DEAD, HIGH RANKING NAZI OFFICIALS KNEW THAT MASTER MAN'S POWER WAS ENHANCED BY BIONICALLY ENGINEERING ABOUT HALF OF HIS BODY WITH STATE OF THE ART MACHINERY. THANKS TO MAGNUS, THE OTHER 50% IS IN TOTAL AND COMPLETE AGONY AS THE GADGETS KEEP HIS HEART BEATING AND NO ONE IS ALIVE TO HEAR HIS WHIMPERS.


THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN THE EIGHTH TIME THIS HIGH SCHOOL YEAR THAT BOBBY DRAKE GOT SUSPENDED FR GETTING BEAT UP.
OOOF!
THINGS ARE MORE SEVERE ~~THIS INCIDENT~~ ON THIS OCCASION..
..SOMEHOW DRAKES BULLY CATCHES SEVERE FROSTBITE ON A ~~HOT~~ BRIGHT JUNE MORNING..
SOB...
SHERIFF... I DON'T KNOW HOW YOUR SON GOT HURT! HONEST!
STUFF IT, BOBBY.
I'LL LETCHA KEEP YER SHOELACES, BOBBY. IF YOU HANG YERSELF TONIGHT YOU'LL SAVE ME SOME TROUBLE IN THE MORNING...
WHA?


PROFESSOR... PROFESSOR?!!
RELAX, SCOTT...
YOU'RE MAGNIFICENT, ROBERT. PLEASE STAND DOWN...
HUH?
WE MEAN YOU ~~NO~~ NO HARM...
WHO'S ~~[illegible]~~ INSIDE MY HEAD?
EXCUSE THE INTRUSION, ROBERT. I WAS...
BOBBY!
MOM? DAD?
WHAT IS THIS?
BOBBY THIS IS PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER. HE'S A GOOD MAN.
HE HAS US COMPLETELY CONVINCED THAT HE CAN HELP YOU WITH YOUR CONDITION...
CONDITION?
I.. I JUST DON'T GET IT?
YOU WILL..

WANDA MAXIMOFF DIDN'T REALIZE THAT GETTING CAUGHT USING HER MUTANT POWERS WOULD RESULT IN A DEATH SENTENCE.

VILE WITCH!

HER BROTHER ~~[illegible]~~ IS DETERMINED TO HELP TAKE HER FAR FROM THIS SECLUDED CARPATHIAN VILLAGE ALIVE AND WELL.

OH, NO. I THINK...

..THEY SET UP A TRAP. ~~[illegible]~~

PIETRO! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

CHARLES XAVIER ISN'T THE ONLY MAN RECRUITING YOUNG DESPERATE MUTANTS FOR A CAUSE...

ARE THEY ALL... DID YOU KILL THEM?

~~WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT [illegible]~~

EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM.

PUBERTY BRINGS ABOUT MANY STRESSORS BUT WARREN WORTHINGTON III HAS MORE EXPECTATIONS THRUST ON HIM THAN MOST BOYS HIS AGE.

YOUR BAGS, MASTER WORTHINGTON?

THAT'S OKAY...

HE KEEPS HIS HEAD IN THE CLOUDS. ON ONE OF HIS FAMILIES PRIVATE ISLANDS THERE ISN'T ANOTHER SOUL WITHIN HUNDREDS OF MILES...

FOR MANY YEARS AFTER THIS WARREN WORTHINGTON THOUGHT HE AND HIS CLASSMATE CAMERON HODGE WERE BEST FRIENDS.

WE CAN MONETIZE THIS!

KOFF KOFF

JUST KEEP YOUR LIPS BUTTONED, HODGE. KOFF.

AS THE ~~[illegible]~~ HEIR APPARENT TO A ~~[illegible]~~ DYNASTIC BUSINESS EMPIRE THE PREMIUM HIS FAMILY PLACES ON EDUCATION IS ~~[illegible]~~ UNFORGIVING...

COME BACK TO PICK ME UP IN ~~A[illegible]~~ TWO WEEKS...

AND DON'T LET MY MOM KNOW I'M HERE...

~~WARREN'S [illegible]~~ BUT WARREN'S BODY RAPIDLY MORPHED RECENTLY ~~[illegible]~~ AND THE SECRET'S WEIGHT HAS TAKEN HIS MIND OUT OF HIS STUDIES...

THE FIRST DAY BACK TO BOARDING SCHOOL AFTER HOLIDAY BREAK, ~~WARREN SHOWS UP LATE TO FIND...~~

SMASH!

HELP!

THERE ~~WASN'T ANYTIME FOR WARREN~~ WAS ONLY TIME FOR WARREN TO REACT.

QUIT SQUIRMING.

WARREN?

WOO! WOO!

WOO! WOO!

WORTHINGTON DIDN'T KNOW THAT WHILE IN SCHOOL, HODGE WAS BEING SEDUCED BY AN ANTI-MUTANT SECRET SOCIETY CALLED THE RIGHT.

FELLOW CLASSMATE, LARRY TRASK

STEPHEN LANG.

BOLIVAR TRASK

FUTURE SENATOR, ROBERT KELLY

DONALD PIERCE OF THE HELL FIRE CLUB.

THERE WAS A DROUGHT FOR DECADES NOW HUMAN CULTURE IS EXPERIENCING A RESURGENCE OF SUPER POWERED HEROS...

WARREN WORTHINGTON PARTNERS WITH CAMERON HODGE TO JOIN THE BANDWAGON OF MASKED VIGILANTES.

YOU FIGHT THE CRIMES, I'LL DO THE P.R.

LOOKS GREAT.

HODGE RAIDS HIS FATHER'S R&D FACILITIES FOR WARREN'S SIGNATURE WEAPON KNOCKOUT GAS.

KOFF! KOFF.

TO ~~BILL HIS [illegible] OF THE~~ UNION, HODGE ALSO DOES THE P.R. FOR ~~THE AVENGING ANGEL~~.

WHO IS THE AVENGING ANGEL?

ALLY BUG

WARREN'S TREMENDOUS EGO MAKE HIS SUSCEPTIBLE TO ALL THE PRAISE AND ADULATION.

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

AFTER A FEW MONTHS THOUGH, IT'S DISCOVERED THAT THE KNOCKOUT GAS COMES WITH VERY HAZARDOUS SIDE EFFECTS.

YES... GASP... I STOLE A... POCKETBOOK... WEEZES BUT I WOULDN'T WISH THIS ON MY WORST ENEMY...

WARREN'S TREMENDOUS EGO THEN ALLOWS HIM TO BECOME SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE UNANIMOUS CRITICISM'S HE RECEIVES.

CAMERON...

I QUIT...

PROFESSOR X KNOWS HE CAN BE MORE CONVINCING TO WARREN WHILE IN THIS MORE VULNERABLE STATE.

WHAT IS THIS?

HELLO, ANGEL. WE HAVE TO TALK.

AT HODGE'S NEXT MEETING WITH THE RIGHT.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.

WARREN IS TRANSFERRING SCHOOLS, NOW. I WON'T HAVE CONSTANT CONTACT ANY MORE

SCOTTY, YOU'VE BEEN HERE THE LONGEST... WHERE DOES PROFESSOR X DISAPPEAR TO ON WEDNESDAYS?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...

THE LE YOU GUYS ARE...

ANGEL

COME CHECK OUT THE NEWS! THE BASTARD DID IT!

SENATOR KELLY CAN'T PASS A MUTANT REGISTRATION BILL, BUT HE'S FOUND SOMETHING WORSE...

MY FELLOW AMERICANS, NOT A SOUL IN NEW YORK CITY WAS UNAFFECTED BY THE LIKES OF NAMOR, THE SUB-MARINER...

... A ROGUE MUTANT WITH NO REGARD FOR HUMAN LIFE... NO RESPECT FOR THE VALUES OF THE UNITED STATES...

ARTIST RENDITION

WE WERE CAUGHT UNAWARE THOSE FEW DECADES AGO, AND WE'VE DONE LITTLE TO PREPARE FOR ANOTHER SUCH ATTACK...

... THAT IS UNTIL NOW. HEAVEN FORBID ANY MUTANT TERRORIST WHO THINKS IT CAN UPSET OUR FREEDOM AND WAY OF LIFE...

SENATOR KELLY SNUCK THROUGH A BILL PROVIDING FUNDING TO A SHELL COMPANY CONTROLLED BY THE RIGHT...

HANDSHAKE

BOLIVAR TRASK NOW HAS THE MONEY TO CONDUCT TESTS ON THE SMALL AMOUNT OF MUTANT DNA HE'S KEPT ON ICE...

FLIP THIS IMAGE

HE DISCOVERS THE GENETIC DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HUMANS AND MUTANTS WHICH CAN BE USED FOR EFFECTIVE DETECTION.

DNA HELIX

THE RIGHT'S GOALS ARE OFFENSIVE RATHER THAN DEFENSIVE.

SENTINEL

WEDNESDAY...

IT'S TIME WE ACCELLERATED THINGS. I WANT YOU TO LIFT AND HOLD THAT CAR.

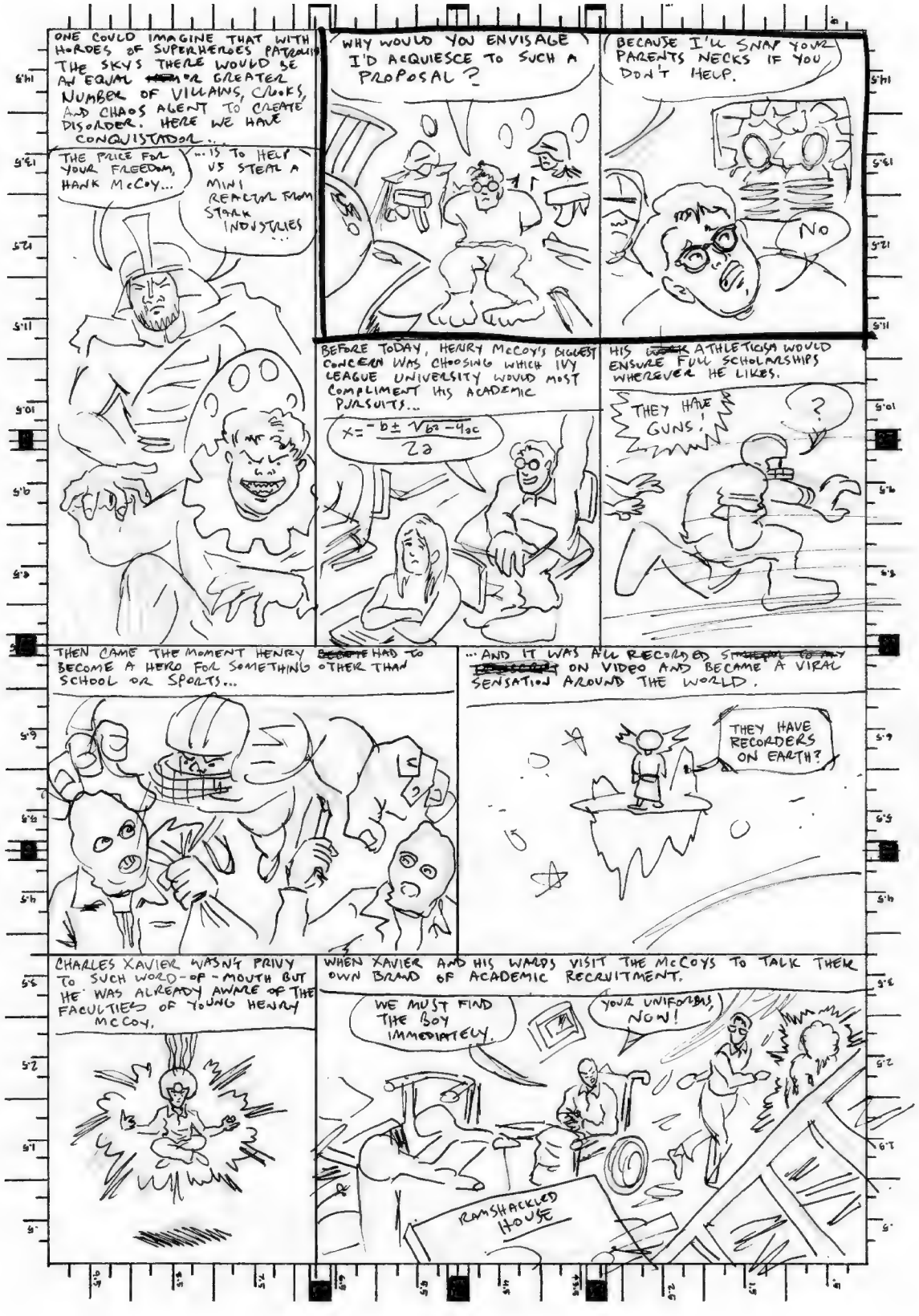
PROFESSOR. THAT'S TOO MUCH...

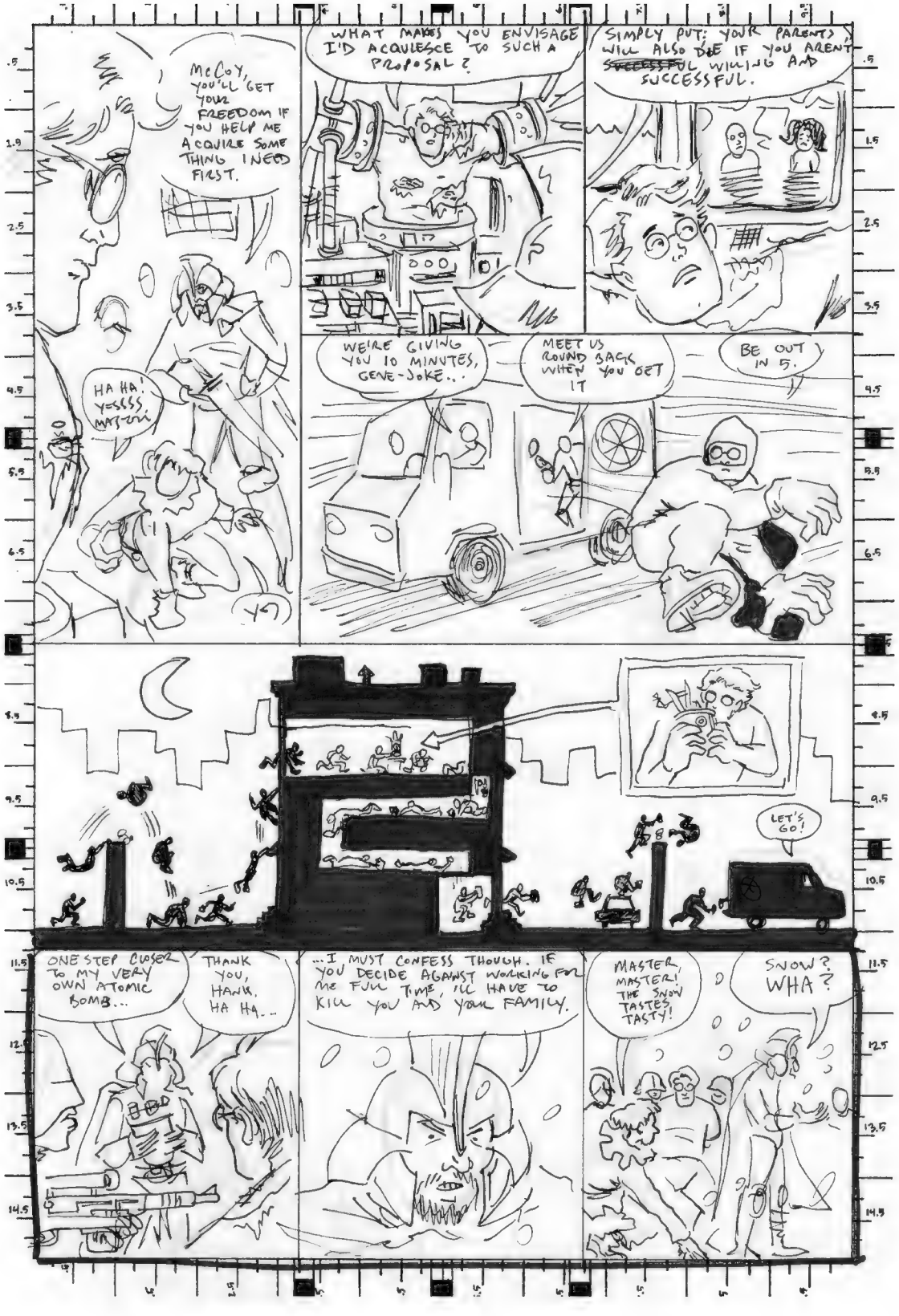
STOP TALKING...

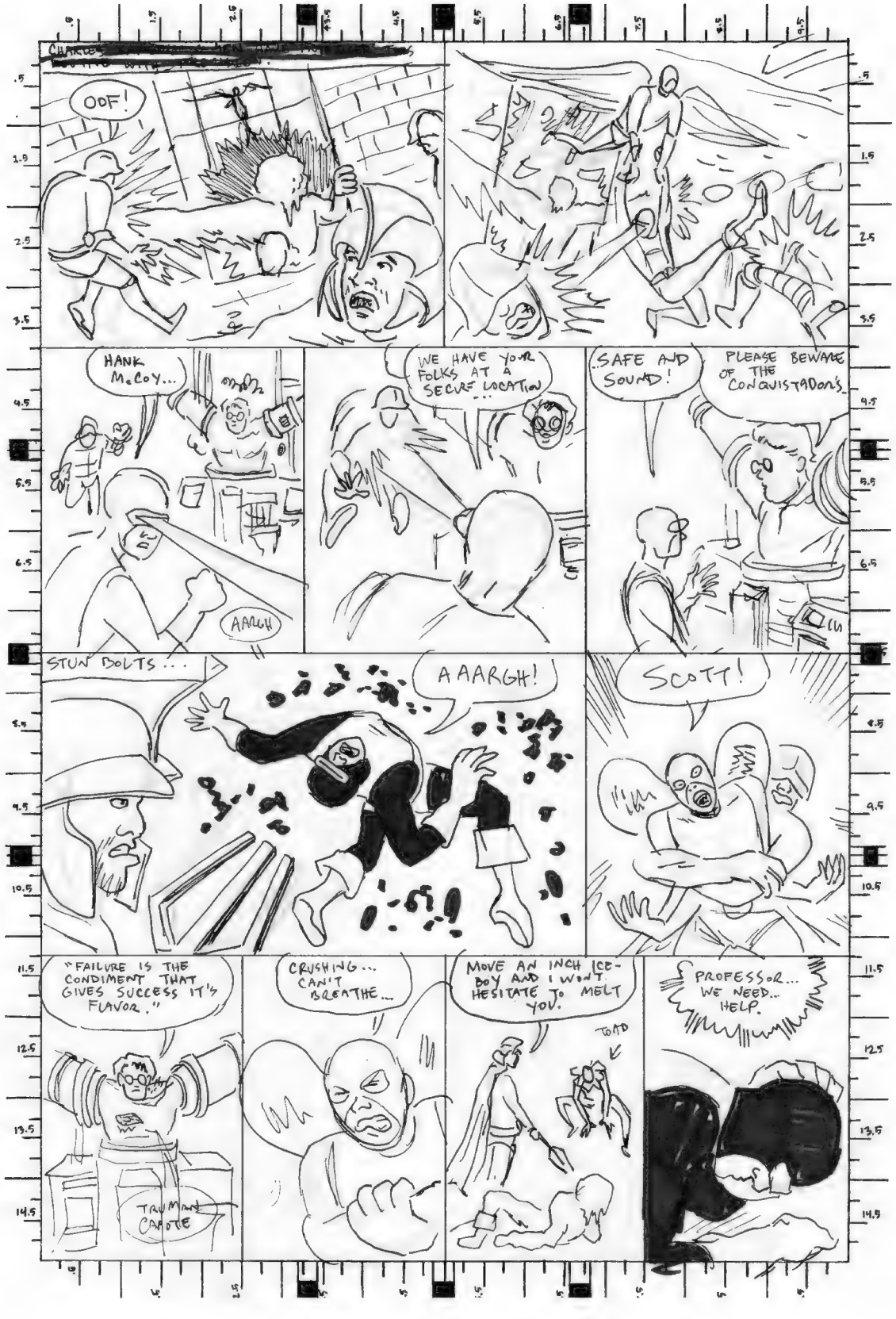
COMMUNICATE WITH ME THIS WAY OR NOT AT ALL. NOW LIFT THE CAR...

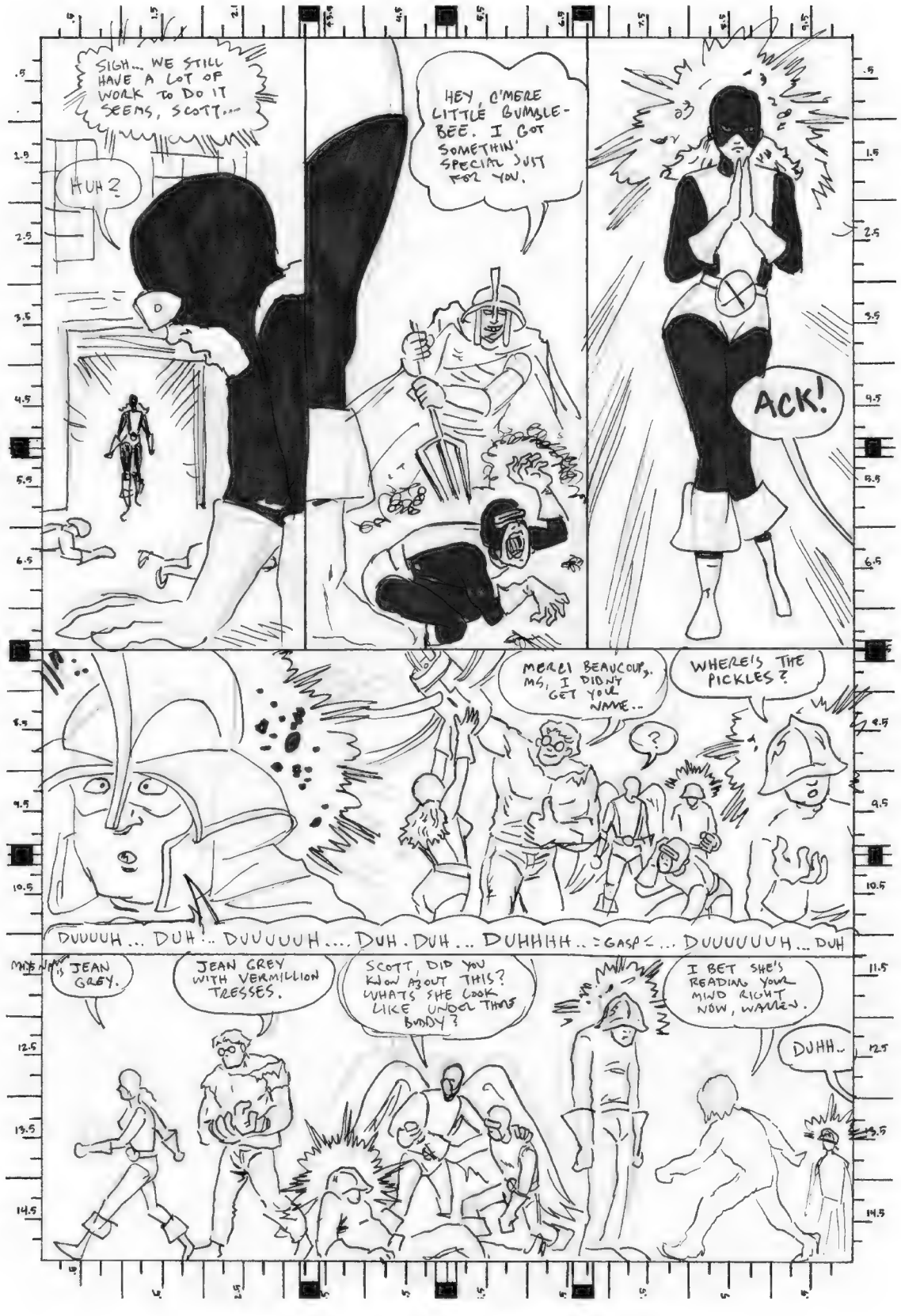
TOP

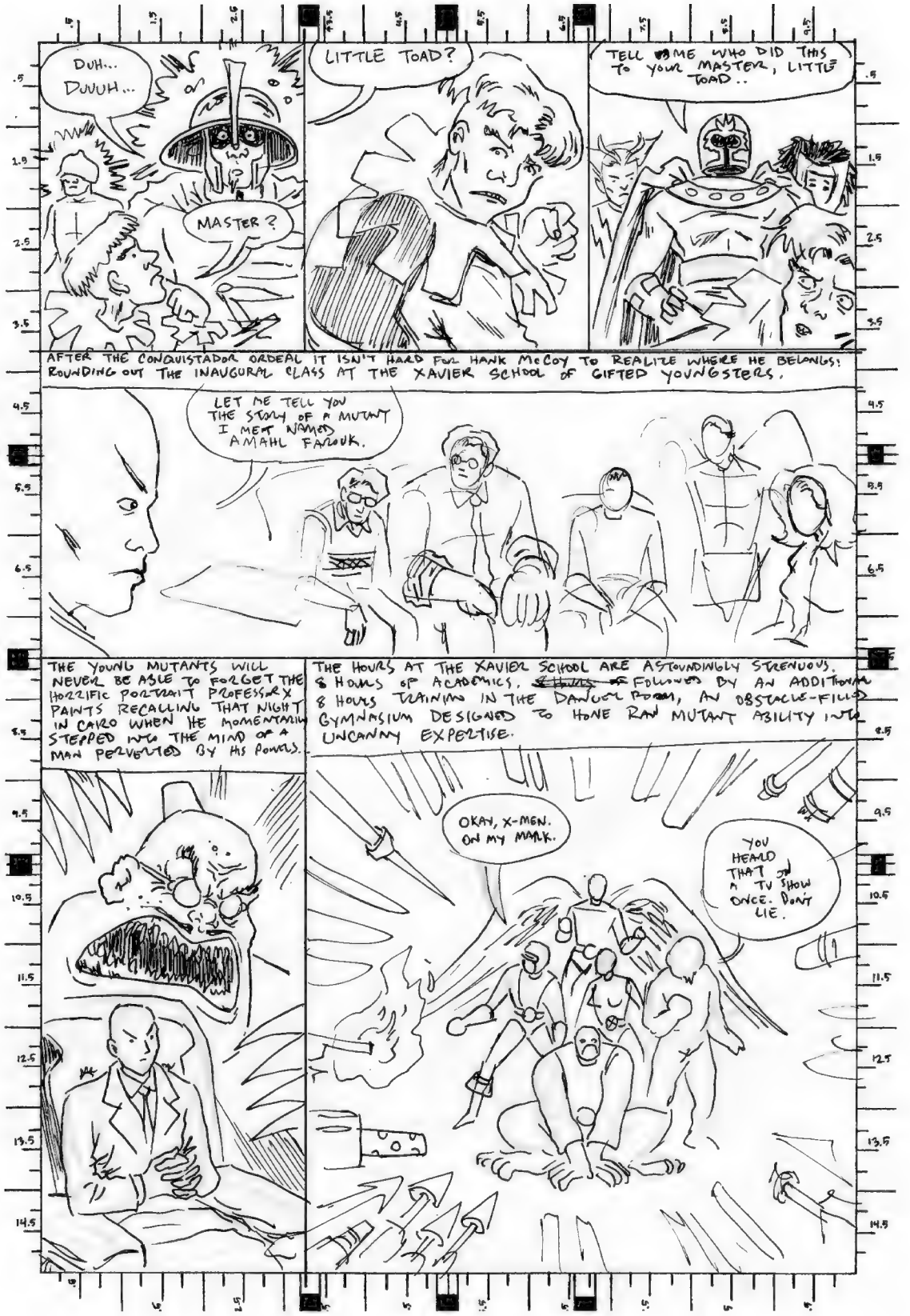
VERY GOOD.

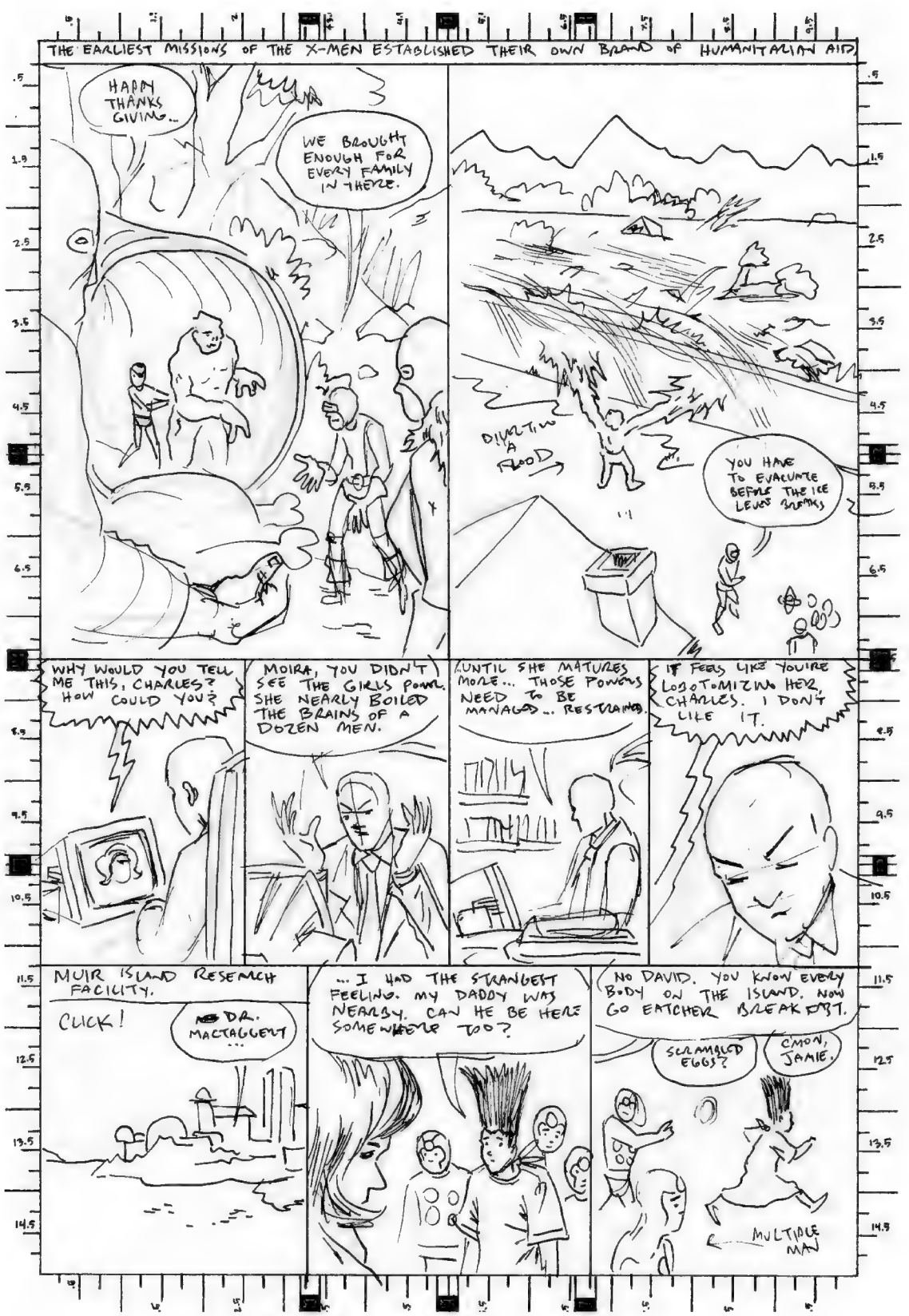

ONE COULD IMAGINE THAT WITH HORDES OF SUPERHEROES PATROLLING THE SKYS THERE WOULD BE AN EQUAL ~~MORE~~ OR GREATER NUMBER OF VILLAINS, CROOKS, AND CHAOS AGENT TO CREATE DISORDER. HERE WE HAVE CONQUISTADOR...
THE PRICE FOR YOUR FREEDOM, HANK McCOY...
...IS TO HELP US STEAL A MINI REACTOR FROM STARK INDUSTRIES...
WHY WOULD YOU ENVISAGE I'D ACQUIESCE TO SUCH A PROPOSAL?
BECAUSE I'LL SNAP YOUR PARENTS NECKS IF YOU DON'T HELP.
NO
BEFORE TODAY, HENRY McCOY'S BIGGEST CONCERN WAS CHOOSING WHICH IVY LEAGUE UNIVERSITY WOULD MOST COMPLIMENT HIS ACADEMIC PURSUITS...
$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$
HIS ~~WORK~~ ATHLETICISM WOULD ENSURE FULL SCHOLARSHIPS WHEREVER HE LIKES.
THEY HAVE GUNS!
?
THEN CAME THE MOMENT HENRY ~~BECAME~~ HAD TO BECOME A HERO FOR SOMETHING OTHER THAN SCHOOL OR SPORTS...
...AND IT WAS ALL RECORDED ~~STRAIGHT TO ANY~~ ~~PERSONAL~~ ON VIDEO AND BECAME A VIRAL SENSATION AROUND THE WORLD.
THEY HAVE RECORDERS ON EARTH?
CHARLES XAVIER WASN'T PRIVY TO SUCH WORD-OF-MOUTH BUT HE WAS ALREADY AWARE OF THE FACULTIES OF YOUNG HENRY McCOY.
WHEN XAVIER AND HIS WARDS VISIT THE McCOYS TO TALK THEIR OWN BRAND OF ACADEMIC RECRUITMENT.
WE MUST FIND THE BOY IMMEDIATELY.
YOUR UNIFORMS, NOW!
RAMSHACKLED HOUSE


McCOY, YOU'LL GET YOUR FREEDOM IF YOU HELP ME ACQUIRE SOME THING I NEED FIRST.
HA HA! YESSSS MASTER
WHAT MAKES YOU ENVISAGE I'D ACQUIESCE TO SUCH A PROPOSAL?
SIMPLY PUT: YOUR PARENTS WILL ALSO DIE IF YOU AREN'T ~~SUCCESSFUL~~ WILLING AND SUCCESSFUL.
WE'RE GIVING YOU 10 MINUTES, GENE-JOKE...
MEET US ROUND BACK WHEN YOU GET IT
BE OUT IN 5.
LET'S GO!
ONE STEP CLOSER TO MY VERY OWN ATOMIC BOMB...
THANK YOU, HANK. HA HA...
...I MUST CONFESS THOUGH. IF YOU DECIDE AGAINST WORKING FOR ME FULL TIME, I'LL HAVE TO KILL YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.
MASTER, MASTER! THE SNOW TASTES TASTY!
SNOW? WHA?

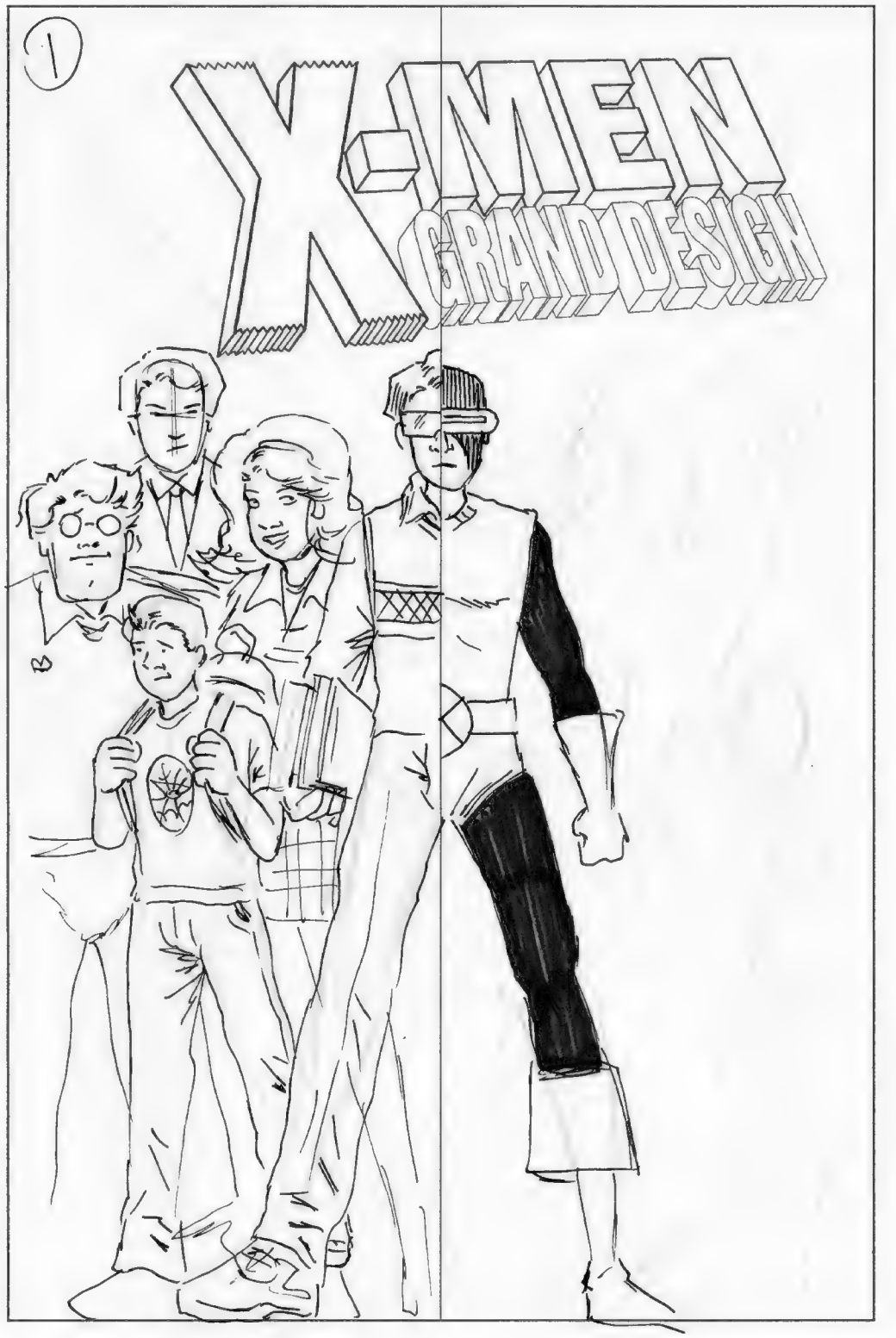

OOF!
HANK McCOY...
AARGH
WE HAVE YOUR FOLKS AT A SECURE LOCATION...
SAFE AND SOUND!
PLEASE BEWARE OF THE CONQUISTADORS.
STUN BOLTS...
AAARGH!
SCOTT!
"FAILURE IS THE CONDIMENT THAT GIVES SUCCESS IT'S FLAVOR."
TRUMAN CAPOTE
CRUSHING... CAN'T BREATHE...
MOVE AN INCH ICE-BOY AND I WON'T HESITATE TO MELT YOU.
TOAD
PROFESSOR... WE NEED... HELP.

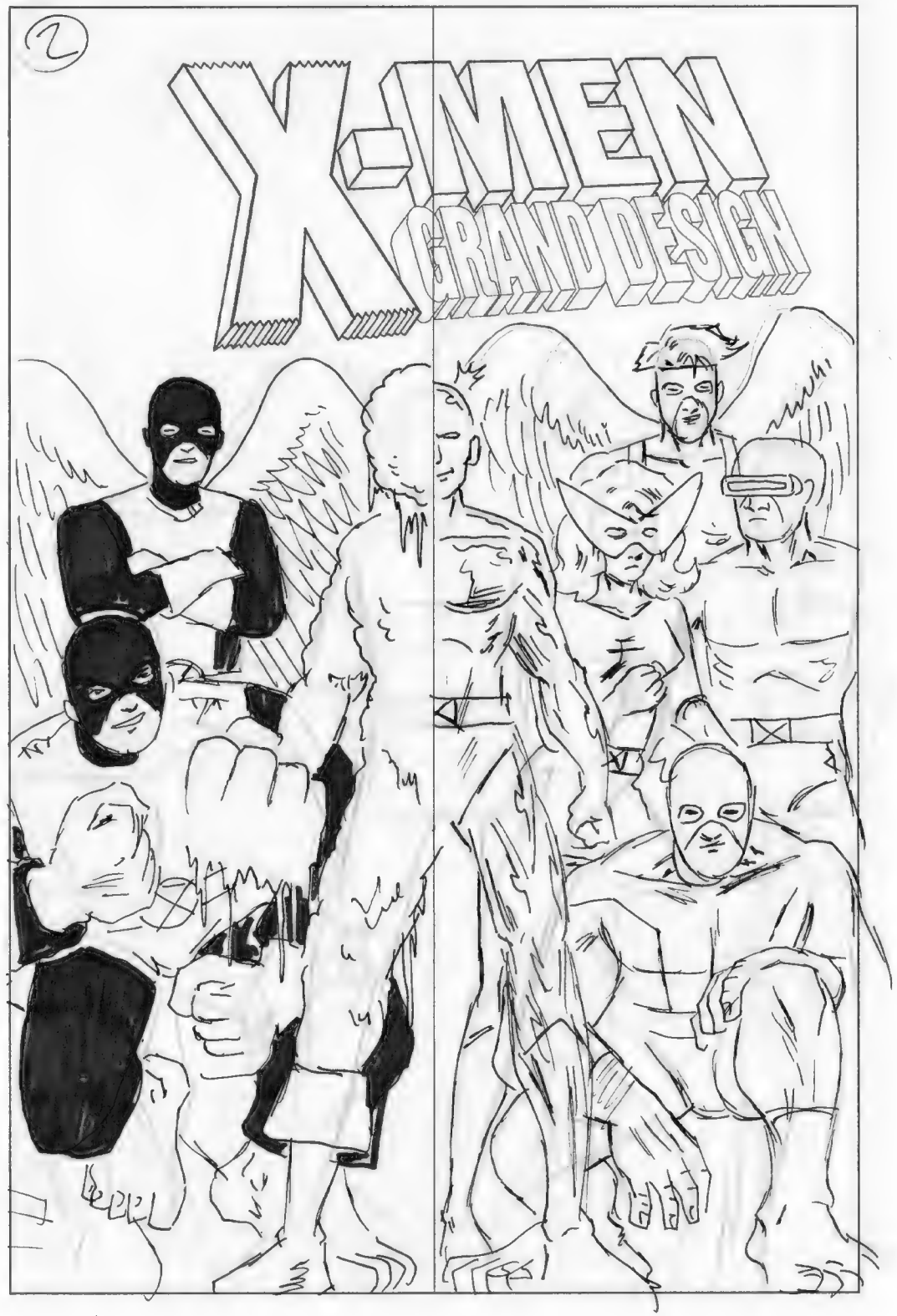

SIGH... WE STILL HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO IT SEEMS, SCOTT...
HUH?
HEY, C'MERE LITTLE BUMBLE-BEE. I GOT SOMETHIN' SPECIAL JUST FOR YOU.
ACK!
MERCI BEAUCOUP, MS, I DIDN'T GET YOUR NAME...
WHERE'S THE PICKLES?
?
DUUUUH... DUH.. DUUUUUH.... DUH. DUH... DUHHHH.. :GASP: ... DUUUUUUH... DUH
JEAN GREY.
JEAN GREY WITH VERMILLION TRESSES.
SCOTT, DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS? WHATS SHE LOOK LIKE UNDER THOSE BUDDY?
I BET SHE'S READING YOUR MIND RIGHT NOW, WARREN.
DUHH..


DUH... DUUUH...
MASTER?
LITTLE TOAD?
TELL ME WHO DID THIS TO YOUR MASTER, LITTLE TOAD..
AFTER THE CONQUISTADOR ORDEAL IT ISN'T HARD FOR HANK McCOY TO REALIZE WHERE HE BELONGS: ROUNDING OUT THE INAUGURAL CLASS AT THE XAVIER SCHOOL OF GIFTED YOUNGSTERS.
LET ME TELL YOU THE STORY OF A MUTANT I MET NAMED AMAHL FAROUK.
THE YOUNG MUTANTS WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO FORGET THE HORRIFIC PORTRAIT PROFESSOR X PAINTS RECALLING THAT NIGHT IN CAIRO WHEN HE MOMENTARILY STEPPED INTO THE MIND OF A MAN PERVERTED BY HIS POWERS.
THE HOURS AT THE XAVIER SCHOOL ARE ASTOUNDINGLY STRENUOUS. 8 HOURS OF ACADEMICS, FOLLOWED BY AN ADDITIONAL 8 HOURS TRAINING IN THE DANGER ROOM, AN OBSTACLE-FILLED GYMNASIUM DESIGNED TO HONE RAW MUTANT ABILITY INTO UNCANNY EXPERTISE.
OKAY, X-MEN. ON MY MARK.
YOU HEARD THAT ON A TV SHOW ONCE. DON'T LIE.

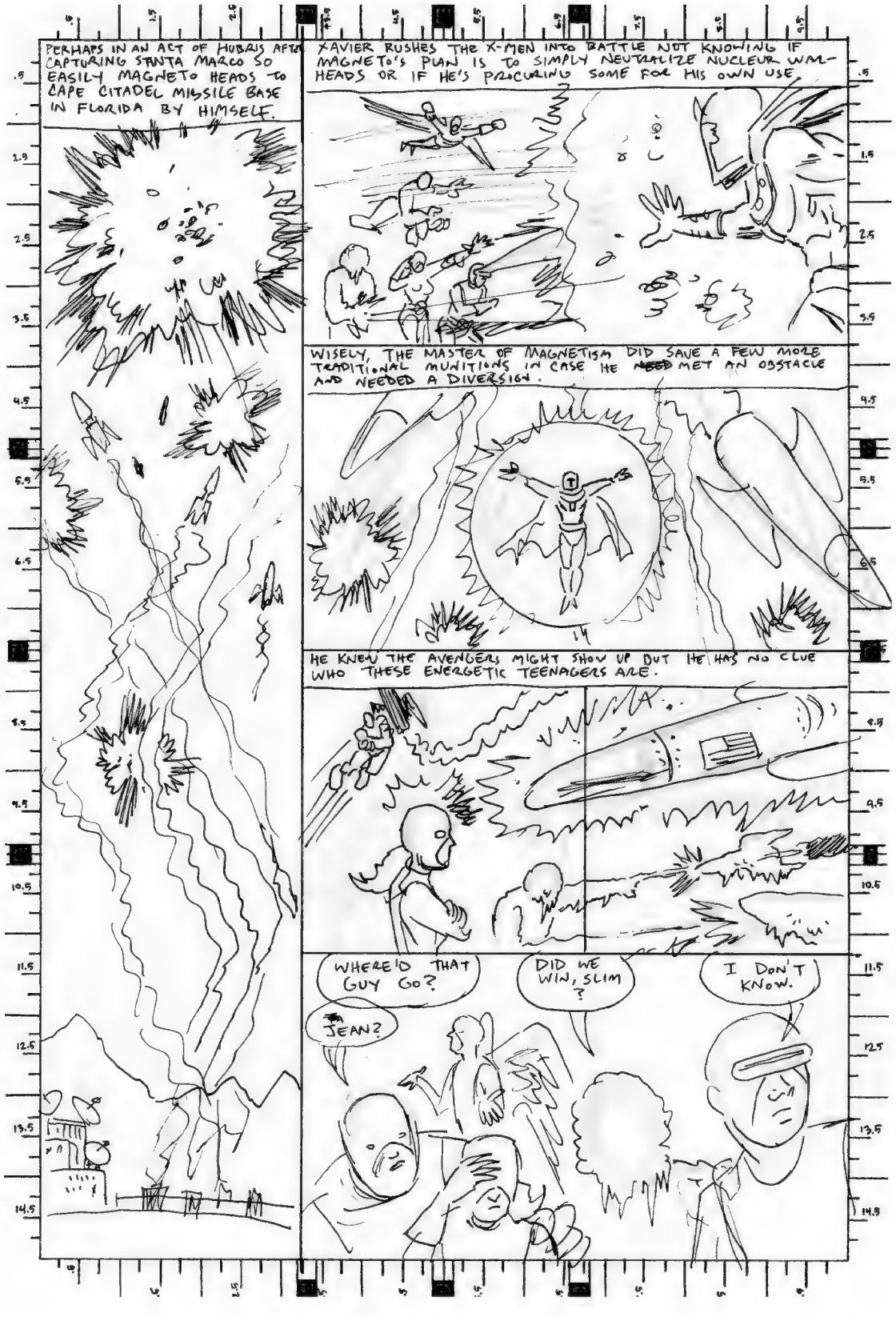

THE EARLIEST MISSIONS OF THE X-MEN ESTABLISHED THEIR OWN BRAND OF HUMANITARIAN AID.
HAPPY THANKS GIVING...
WE BROUGHT ENOUGH FOR EVERY FAMILY IN THERE.
DIVERTING A FLOOD
YOU HAVE TO EVACUATE BEFORE THE ICE LEVEE BREAKS
WHY WOULD YOU TELL ME THIS, CHARLES? HOW COULD YOU?
MOIRA, YOU DIDN'T SEE THE GIRLS POWER. SHE NEARLY BOILED THE BRAINS OF A DOZEN MEN.
UNTIL SHE MATURES MORE... THOSE POWERS NEED TO BE MANAGED... RESTRAINED.
IT FEELS LIKE YOU'RE LOBOTOMIZING HER, CHARLES. I DON'T LIKE IT.
MUIR ISLAND RESEARCH FACILITY.
CLICK!
DR. MACTAGGERT...
...I HAD THE STRANGEST FEELING. MY DADDY WAS NEARBY. CAN HE BE HERE SOMEWHERE TOO?
NO DAVID. YOU KNOW EVERYBODY ON THE ISLAND. NOW GO FETCHER BREAKFAST.
SCRAMBLED EGGS?
C'MON, JAMIE.
MULTIPLE MAN

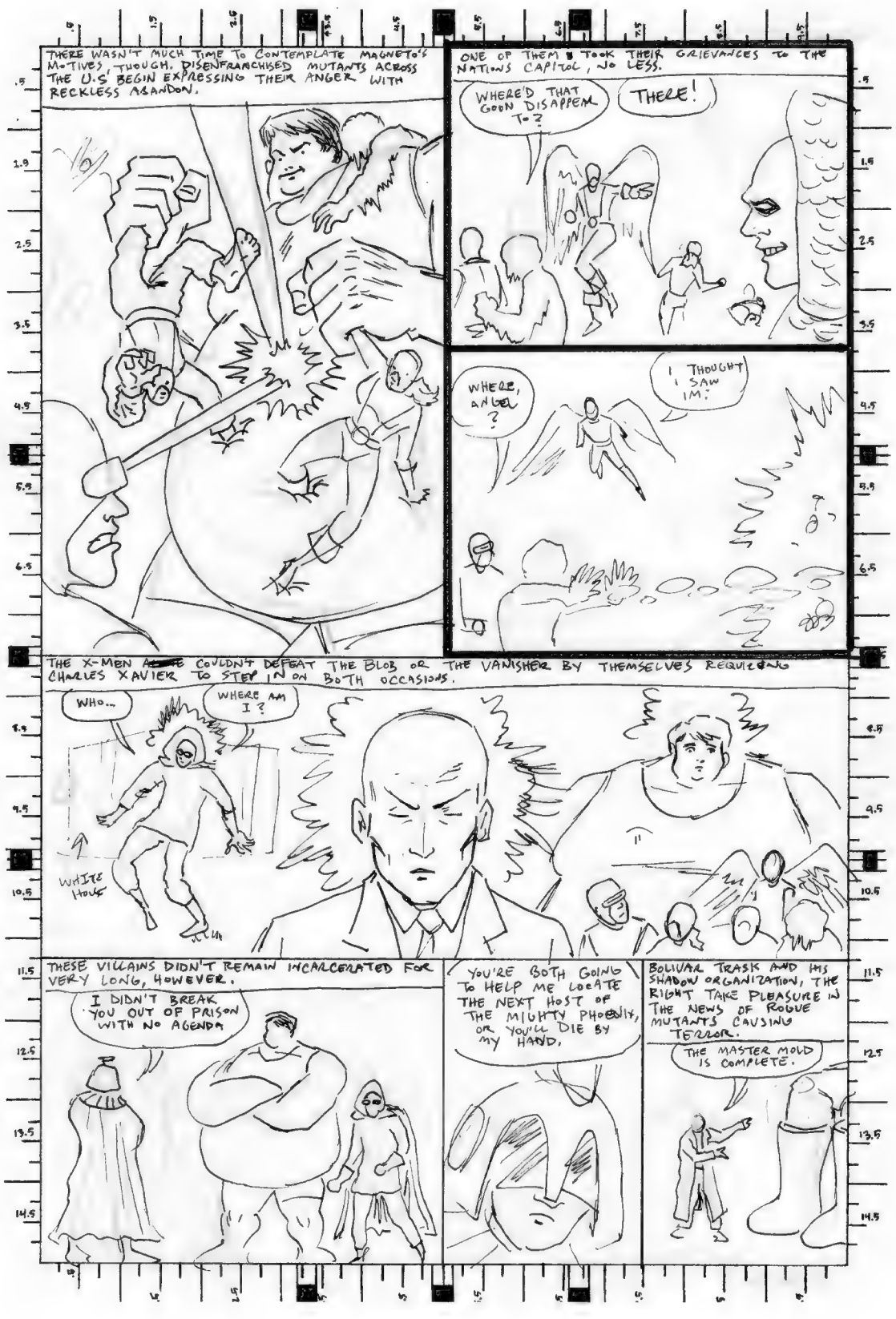
THE X-MEN ARE A PRIVILEGED LOT. MUTANTS FACE ALL DIFFERENT SORTS OF DISCRIMINATION MAKING IT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND EMPLOYMENT OR A PLACE TO STAY.
YOU PAID YOUR NICKEL, LADIES AND GENTS, NOW FEAST YOUR EYES ON... THE BLOB!
... A $100 PRIZE TO THE MAN WHO CAN PIN... OR EVEN LAY THEIR HANDS ON...
UNUS, THE UNTOUCHABLE!
SUMPTUOUSLY
MANY MUTANTS NEED TO USE THEIR POWERS TO ACQUIRE THE MOST BASIC THINGS THEY NEED FOR SURVIVAL. A SUBSET OF THESE MUTANTS USE THEIR ABILITIES TO TAKE WHATEVER THEY WANT, WHENEVER THEY WANT, WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT. THEY VIEW THE AVERAGE HUMAN AS BENEATH THEM.
AN ADEQUATE PHOTO, PARKER. THE HEADLINE WILL READ... "BROTHER HOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS STRIKES AGAIN"!
MR JAMESON, I'LL NEED AN ADVANCE ON THAT. THE HELMET GUY SMASHED MY CAMERA WITH HIS MIND...
CHARLES XAVIER KNOWS THAT A CLASH IS INEVITABLE BUT HIS X-MEN ARE NOWHERE NEAR BATTLE-READY.
IN THE MEANTIME, THE UNQUENCHABLE PHOENIX FORCE CONTINUES BARRELLING THROUGH THE GALAXIES, BURNING WITH FURIOUS PASSION ON HER WAY TO EARTH FOR THE ONE SOUL WORTHY OF HER COMMANDING POWER...

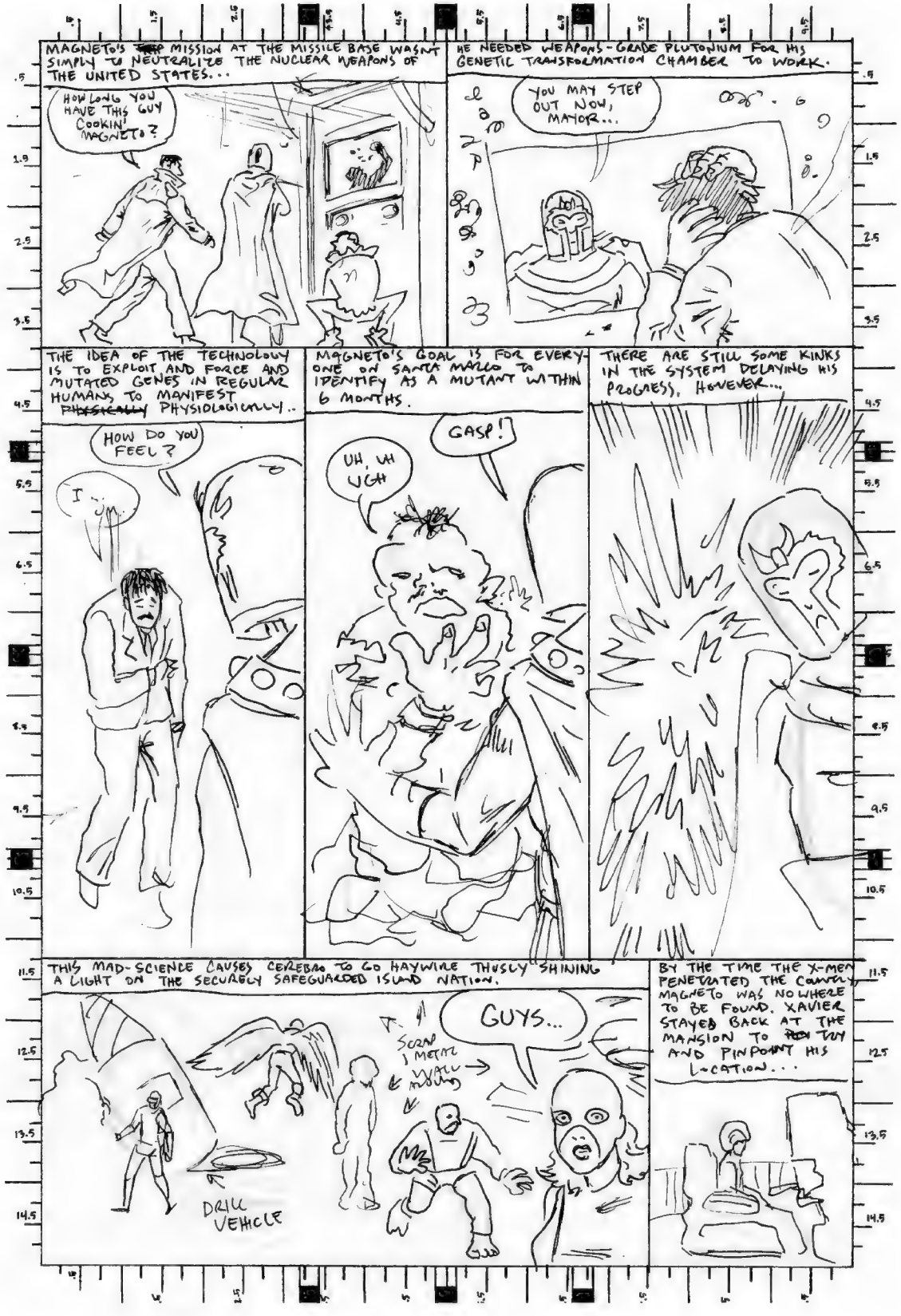

1
X-MEN
GRAND DESIGN

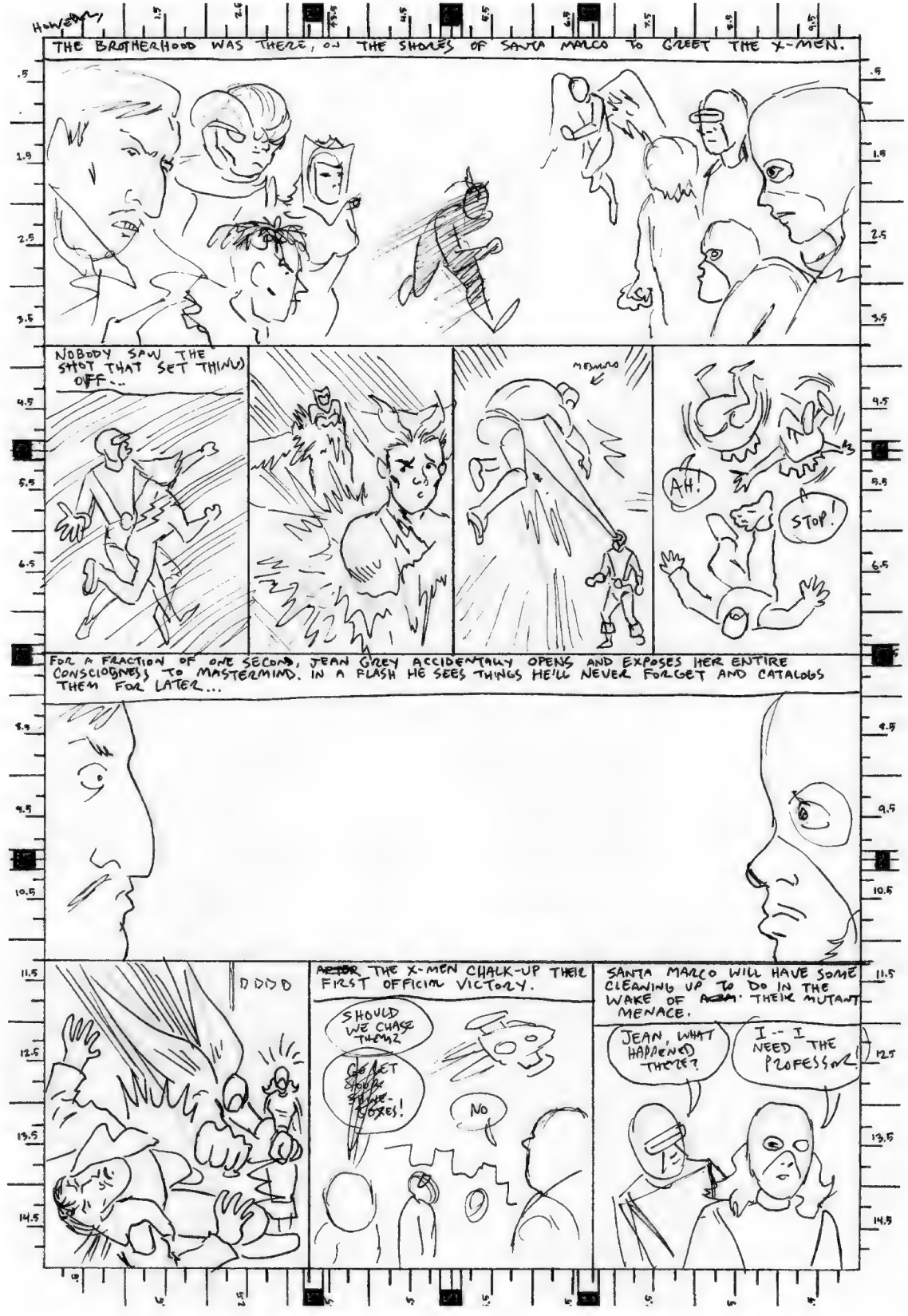

2
X-MEN
GRAND DESIGN

XAVIER AND THE X-MEN HAVE NO SUSPICIONS THAT A MARATHON OF EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL WARRIORS ARE HEADING THEIR WAY...
... THE X-MEN DON'T EVEN HAVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE MORE IMMENENT THREAT LOOMING JUST OUTSIDE OF THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE...
SANTA MARCO MAKES PERFECT STRATEGIC SENSE, MAGNETO...
WHAT'S THE PLAN?
SANTA MARCO, THE RESOURCE-HEAVY ISLAND BARELY 50 MILES FROM THE COAST OF FLORIDA. THE PERFECT PLACE FOR MAGNETO AND HIS BROTHERHOOD OF MUTANTS TO LAUNCH A COLD WAR AGAINST THE U.S.
THE INHABITANTS OF THE ISLAND WAKE UP TO THE SOUNDS OF TWISTED METAL FORTIFYING THEM OFF FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD...
ISLAND CITY
WHAT IS THIS?
STACKS OF CARS
I... I DON'T KNOW?
MASTERMAIND
BY NOON MAGNETO'S MASTERS OF ILLUSION AND HYPNOTISM DO THE WORK OF 100,000 MEN TO GET SANTA MARCO'S CITIZENS TO ACCEPT AN IMMEDIATE AND DRASTIC NEW WAY OF LIFE.
SOB...
SOLDIERS
MASTERMIND
BY DINNER TIME MAGNETO IS KING AND AMERICA IS NONE THE WISER.
OF COURSE AMERICA'S NUCLEAR ARMS WILL BE PROBLEMATIC...
I'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHIN ABOUT THAT.


PERHAPS IN AN ACT OF HUBRIS AFTER CAPTURING SANTA MARCO SO EASILY MAGNETO HEADS TO CAPE CITADEL MISSILE BASE IN FLORIDA BY HIMSELF.
XAVIER RUSHES THE X-MEN INTO BATTLE NOT KNOWING IF MAGNETO'S PLAN IS TO SIMPLY NEUTRALIZE NUCLEAR WARHEADS OR IF HE'S PROCURING SOME FOR HIS OWN USE.
WISELY, THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM DID SAVE A FEW MORE TRADITIONAL MUNITIONS IN CASE HE ~~NEED~~ MET AN OBSTACLE AND NEEDED A DIVERSION.
HE KNEW THE AVENGERS MIGHT SHOW UP BUT HE HAS NO CLUE WHO THESE ENERGETIC TEENAGERS ARE.
WHERE'D THAT GUY GO?
JEAN?
DID WE WIN, SLIM?
I DON'T KNOW.


THERE WASN'T MUCH TIME TO CONTEMPLATE MAGNETO'S MOTIVES, THOUGH. DISENFRANCHISED MUTANTS ACROSS THE U.S BEGIN EXPRESSING THEIR ANGER WITH RECKLESS ABANDON.
ONE OF THEM TOOK THEIR GRIEVANCES TO THE NATIONS CAPITOL, NO LESS.
WHERE'D THAT GOON DISAPPEAR TO?
THERE!
WHERE, ANGEL?
I THOUGHT I SAW IM.
THE X-MEN ~~ALONE~~ COULDN'T DEFEAT THE BLOB OR THE VANISHER BY THEMSELVES REQUIRING CHARLES XAVIER TO STEP IN ON BOTH OCCASIONS.
WHO...
WHERE AM I?
WHITE HOUSE
THESE VILLAINS DIDN'T REMAIN INCARCERATED FOR VERY LONG, HOWEVER.
I DIDN'T BREAK YOU OUT OF PRISON WITH NO AGENDA
YOU'RE BOTH GOING TO HELP ME LOCATE THE NEXT HOST OF THE MIGHTY PHOENIX, OR YOU'LL DIE BY MY HAND.
BOLIVAR TRASK AND HIS SHADOW ORGANIZATION, THE RIGHT TAKE PLEASURE IN THE NEWS OF ROGUE MUTANTS CAUSING TERROR.
THE MASTER MOLD IS COMPLETE.


MAGNETO'S ~~TRIP~~ MISSION AT THE MISSILE BASE WASN'T SIMPLY TO NEUTRALIZE THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS OF THE UNITED STATES...
HOW LONG YOU HAVE THIS GUY COOKIN' MAGNETO?
HE NEEDED WEAPONS-GRADE PLUTONIUM FOR HIS GENETIC TRANSFORMATION CHAMBER TO WORK.
YOU MAY STEP OUT NOW, MAJOR...
THE IDEA OF THE TECHNOLOGY IS TO EXPLOIT AND FORCE AND MUTATED GENES IN REGULAR HUMANS TO MANIFEST ~~PHYSICALLY~~ PHYSIOLOGICALLY..
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
I...
MAGNETO'S GOAL IS FOR EVERY ONE ON SANTA MARCO TO IDENTIFY AS A MUTANT WITHIN 6 MONTHS.
GASP!
UH, UH UGH
THERE ARE STILL SOME KINKS IN THE SYSTEM DELAYING HIS PROGRESS, HOWEVER...
THIS MAD-SCIENCE CAUSES CEREBRO TO GO HAYWIRE THUSLY SHINING A LIGHT ON THE SECURELY SAFEGUARDED ISLAND NATION.
GUYS...
SCAN I METIZ
DRILL VEHICLE
BY THE TIME THE X-MEN PENETRATED THE COUNTRY, MAGNETO WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND. XAVIER STAYED BACK AT THE MANSION TO ~~TRY~~ TRY AND PINPOINT HIS LOCATION...


HOWEVER,
THE BROTHERHOOD WAS THERE, ON THE SHORES OF SANTA MARCO TO GREET THE X-MEN.
NOBODY SAW THE SHOT THAT SET THINGS OFF...
MEMMO
AH!
STOP!
FOR A FRACTION OF ONE SECOND, JEAN GREY ACCIDENTALLY OPENS AND EXPOSES HER ENTIRE CONSCIOUSNESS TO MASTERMIND. IN A FLASH HE SEES THINGS HE'LL NEVER FORGET AND CATALOGS THEM FOR LATER...
DDDD
~~AFTER~~ THE X-MEN CHALK-UP THEIR FIRST OFFICIAL VICTORY.
SHOULD WE CHASE THEM?
~~GET SOME SHOE-BOXES!~~
NO
SANTA MARCO WILL HAVE SOME CLEANING UP TO DO IN THE WAKE OF ~~AGAIN~~ THEIR MUTANT MENACE.
JEAN, WHAT HAPPENED THERE?
I -- I NEED THE PROFESSOR!

THIS HOMELESS VAGRANT WOULD ALWAYS SHOW UP WHEN XAVIER WAS USING CEREBRO TO SCAN FOR MUTANTS.

HEY, HOBO! LEMME HOLD TEN DOLLARS!

HUMM...

SEVERE AMNESIA IMPEDES XAVIERS PSYCHIC PROBES EVERY STEP OF THE WAY. WHEN TRYING TO QUANTIFY WHAT MUTANT ~~POWER~~ ABILITY THE TRANSIENT POSSESSES.

YOU DON'T GOT NO MONEY?

STOP!

ALL IT TOOK WAS A DIP IN THE HUDSON TO JUMPSTART THE DERELICT'S MEMORY...

YOU GO SWIMMIN' THEN SUCKS!

... AND HIS ~~[illegible]~~ VOLATILE ~~MIGHT~~!

STRENGTH...

HUHZ

THE FIRST THING ON PRINCE NAMOR'S MIND IS TO LET ~~THE~~ HIS KINGDOM KNOW THAT HE IS ALIVE AND WELL.

No!

NUCLEAR TESTING AND POLLUTION HAS DESTROYED THE POPULATION OF ATLANTIS. MAGNETO HAS BEEN HARVESTING THEIR TECHNOLOGY ~~AT~~ FOR YEARS. ~~[illegible]~~

I'VE GONE THROUGH THE SAME THING.

JOIN ME IN GETTING SWEET REVENGE, NAMOR...

THE SUB-MARINER VOWS TO DESTROY EVERY HUMAN HE CAN SPOT. DECADES AGO HE KILLED TENS OF THOUSANDS WITHOUT MUCH REASON. NOW HE FEELS HE HAS EVERY REASON TO RAMPAGE.

A NEW BREED OF SUPERHERO IS ~~HERE AND~~ NOW HERE TO TEMPER NAMOR'S FURY...

COL. FURY, WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?

I HATE TO SAY IT BUT TRASK'S SENTINEL PROGRAM MIGHT BE OUR BEST OPTION TO PROTECT THE CIVVIES. * FROM THESE CRAZY MUTIES...

THE WHITE HOUSE

* CIVILIANS

COULD HE BE THE ONE THE PHOENIX IS SEARCHING FOR?

NOT POSSIBLE, THE PHOENIX FORCE WOULD NEVER BOND WITH A WATER-BASED CREATURE...

IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT MAGNETO WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN TAMING NAMOR FOR HIS CAUSE, BUT THIS DOESN'T MUCH MATTER, THERE ARE MANY TITANIC, IMPRESSIONABLE MUTANTS TO CHOOSE FROM.

THE WINNER... AND STILL CHAMPION!

UNUS THE UNTOUCHABLE!

MAGNETO DOESN'T WANT TO APPEAR DESPERATE BUT THE TRUTH IS HE NEEDS HELP TO ACCOMPLISH HIS IMPERIALISTIC GOALS.

FASCINATING! NOT ONLY IS IT IMPOSSIBLE TO ATTACK YOU PHYSICALLY

BUT YOUR MIND IS ALSO RESISTANT TO PSYCHIC TRICKS.

THE INITIATION TEST FOR THE BROTHERHOOD IS FRANKLY ARBITRARY BUT MAGNETO WANTS UNUS TO FEEL HE'S EARNED HIS OPPORTUNITY. BECAUSE IT WILL MAKE THE NEW MUTANTS INVESTMENT FEEL MUCH GREATER.

HA HA

UNUS IS ALSO SOMEWHAT OF A PAWN FOR THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM. AND HIS SUSPICIONS BEAR FRUIT, THESE YOUNG X-MEN JUST WON'T STOP CREATING OBSTACLES...

MUSEUM SETTING

YOU'RE NOT LEAVING HERE WITH THAT GEM, BUSTER...

UNUS WAS QUICKLY PROVING TO BE A FORMIDABLE ALLY FOR THE BROTHERHOOD, AND YET A CAUTIOUS BEDFELLOW. ~~[illegible] MAGNETO. ACCEPTS HIM INTO THE ORGANIZATION HE REALIZES IT WOULD BE SMART TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO DEFEAT THE MAN WHO CAN'T BE TOUCHED...~~

FORMULATE

BEFORE THE X-MEN COULD FORMULATE A WAY TO DEFEAT A VILLAIN WHO COULDN'T BE TOUCHED

BUSH LEAGUERS.

HUH?

~~[illegible]~~ UNUS DISAPPEARS

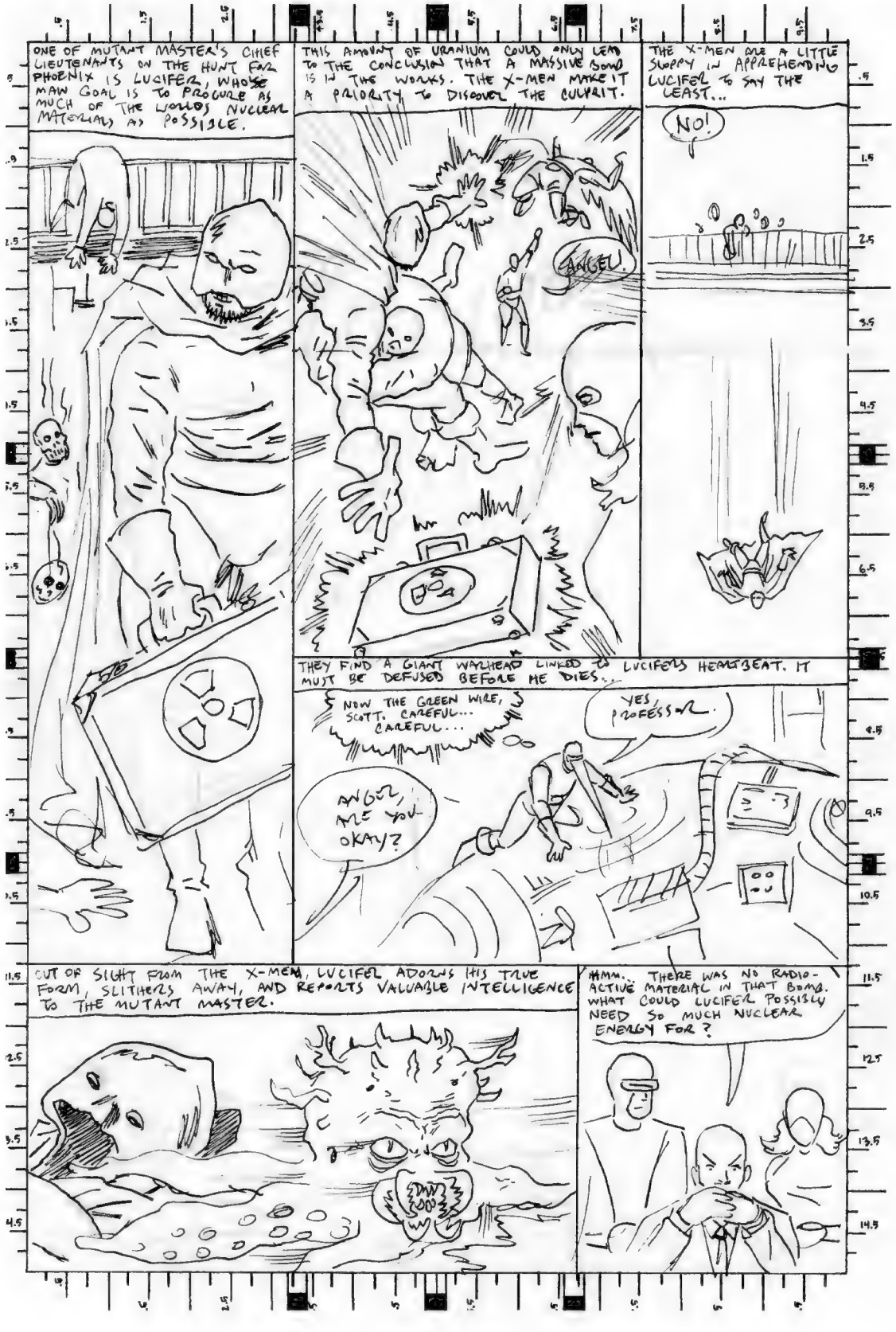
THE MUTANT MASTER WAS MONITORING THE PROCEEDINGS AND COULDN'T PASS UP THE CHANCE TO POACH SUCH A POWERFUL MUTANT FOR HIS MENAGERIE...

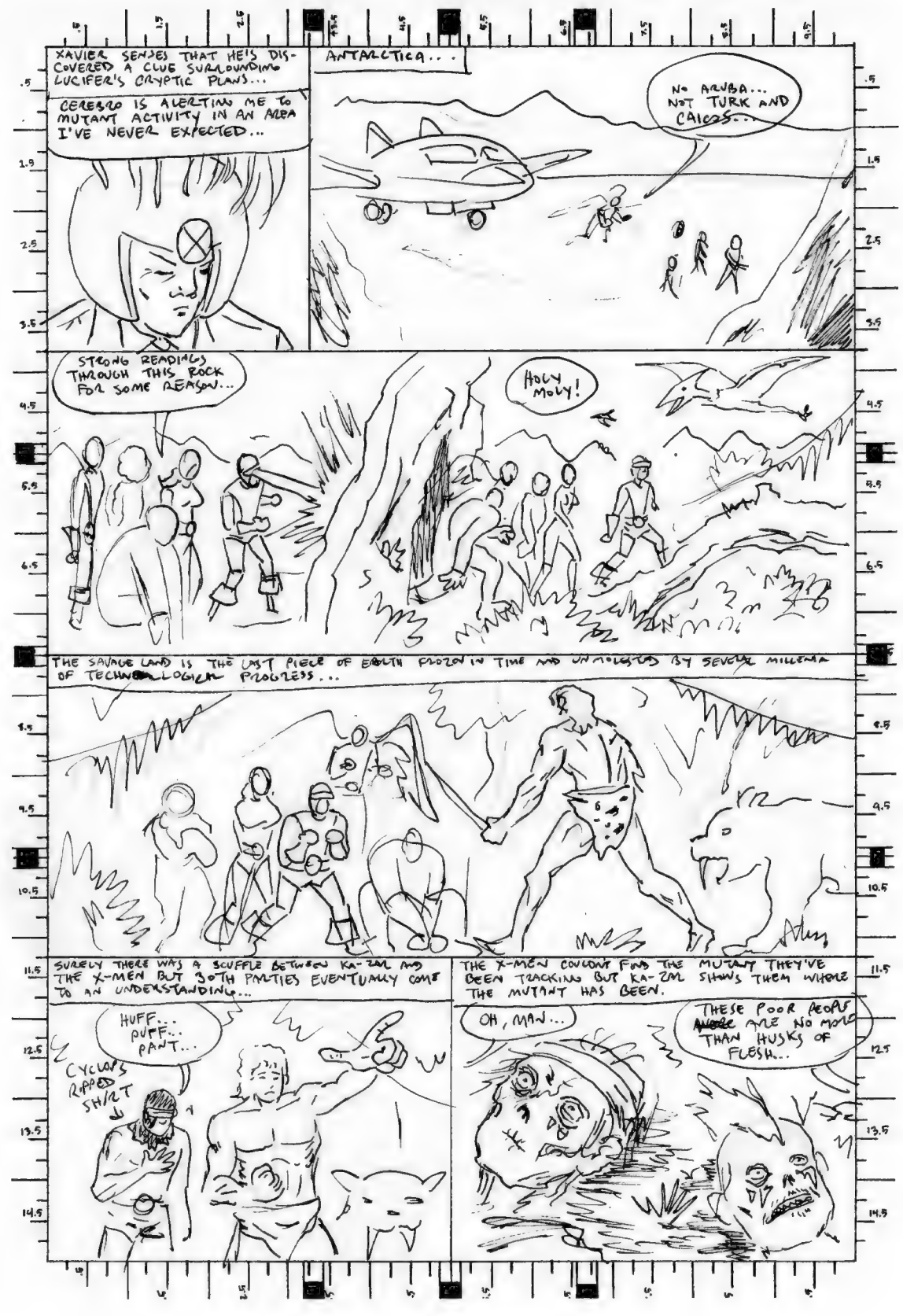
HOW?

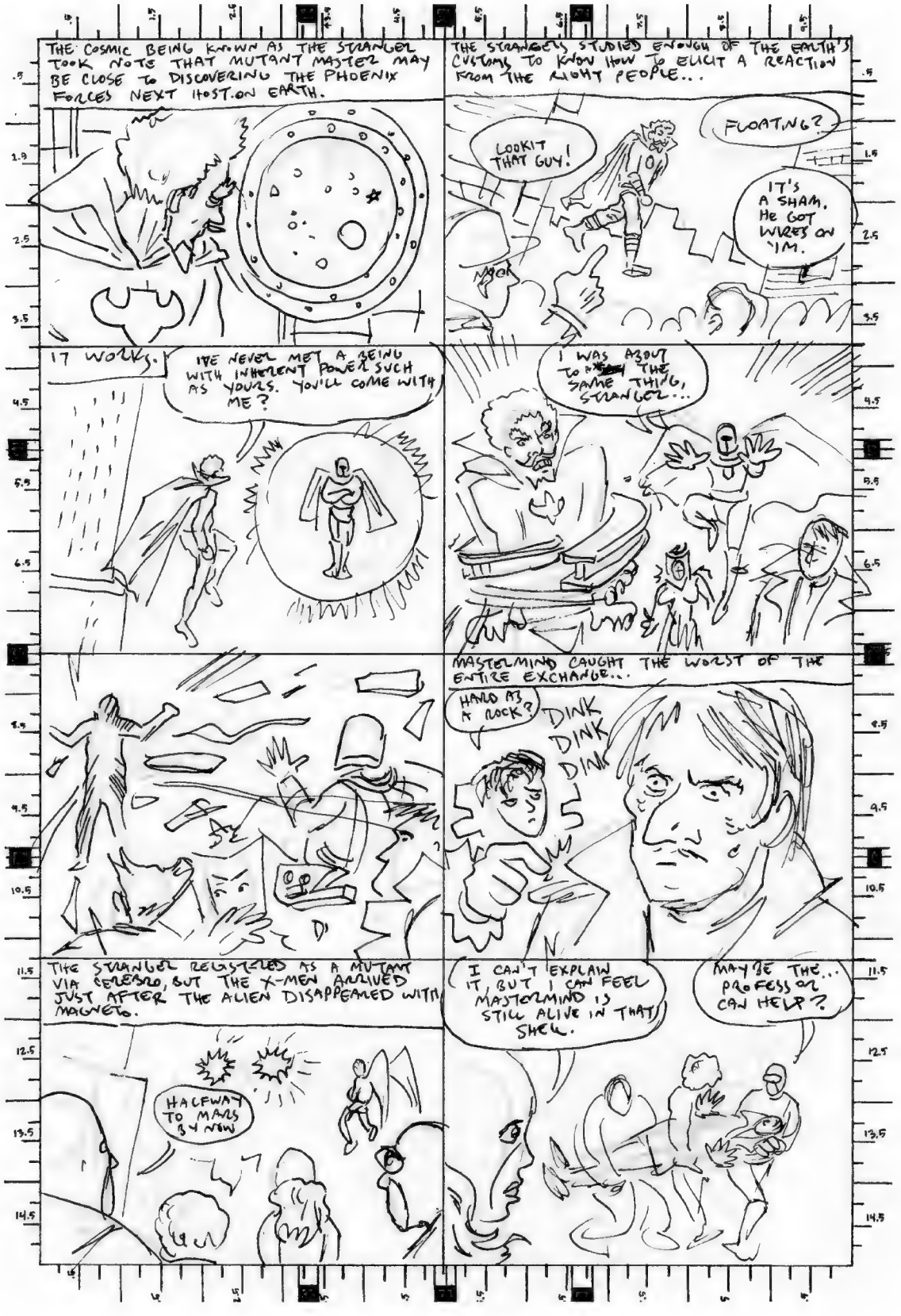
UNUS, WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE PHOENIX?

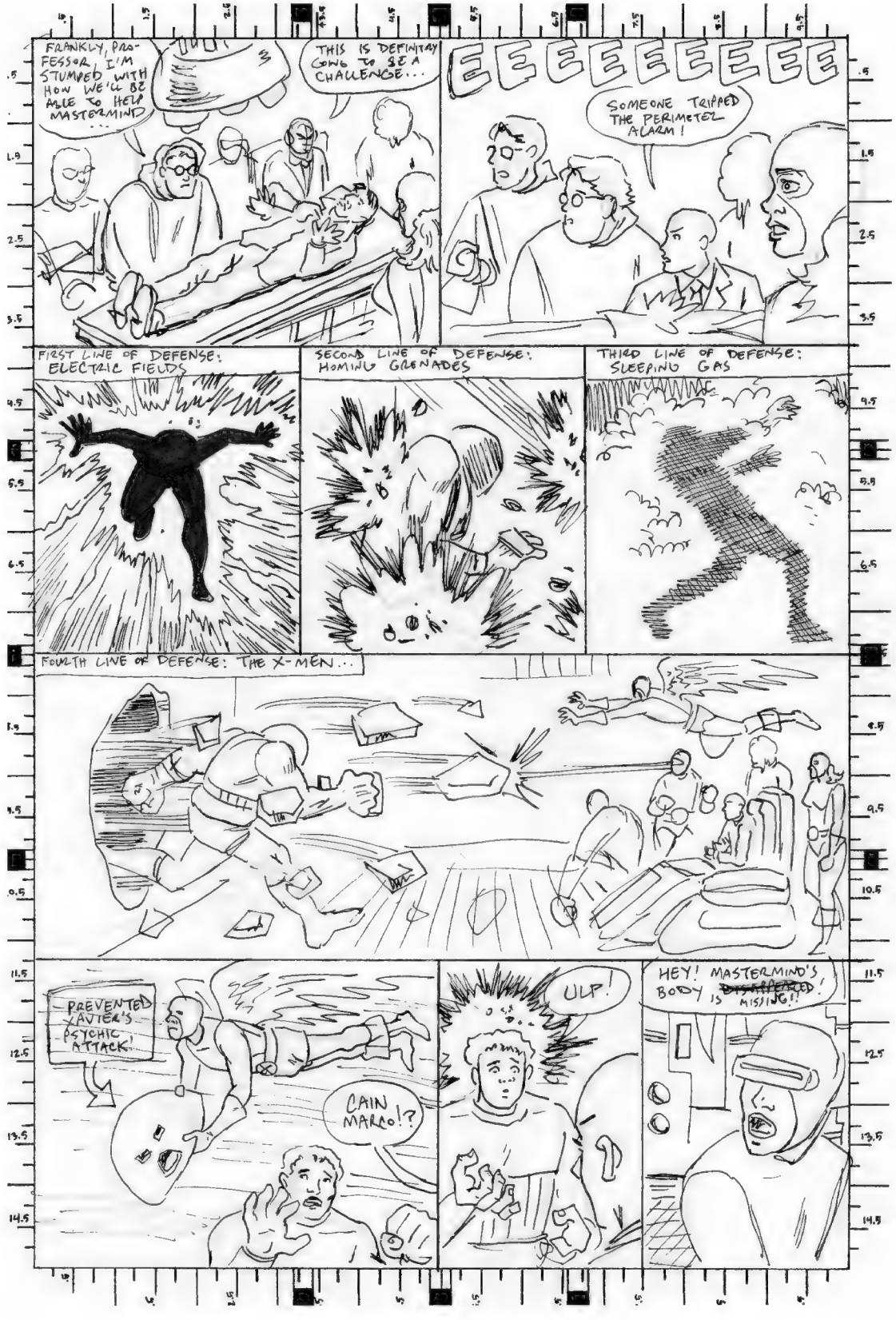
PHOENIX... PHOENIX... PHOENIX...

BUT


ONE OF MUTANT MASTER'S CHIEF LIEUTENANTS ON THE HUNT FOR PHOENIX IS LUCIFER, WHOSE MAIN GOAL IS TO PROCURE AS MUCH OF THE WORLD'S NUCLEAR MATERIAL AS POSSIBLE.
THIS AMOUNT OF URANIUM COULD ONLY LEAD TO THE CONCLUSION THAT A MASSIVE BOMB IS IN THE WORKS. THE X-MEN MAKE IT A PRIORITY TO DISCOVER THE CULPRIT.
ANGEL!
THE X-MEN ARE A LITTLE SLOPPY IN APPREHENDING LUCIFER, TO SAY THE LEAST...
NO!
THEY FIND A GIANT WARHEAD LINKED TO LUCIFER'S HEARTBEAT. IT MUST BE DEFUSED BEFORE HE DIES...
NOW THE GREEN WIRE, SCOTT. CAREFUL... CAREFUL...
YES, PROFESSOR.
ANGEL, ARE YOU OKAY?
OUT OF SIGHT FROM THE X-MEN, LUCIFER ADORNS HIS TRUE FORM, SLITHERS AWAY, AND REPORTS VALUABLE INTELLIGENCE TO THE MUTANT MASTER.
HMM... THERE WAS NO RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL IN THAT BOMB. WHAT COULD LUCIFER POSSIBLY NEED SO MUCH NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR?


XAVIER SENSES THAT HE'S DISCOVERED A CLUE SURROUNDING LUCIFER'S CRYPTIC PLANS...
CEREBRO IS ALERTING ME TO MUTANT ACTIVITY IN AN AREA I'VE NEVER EXPECTED...
ANTARCTICA...
NO ARUBA... NOT TURK AND CAICOS...
STRONG READINGS THROUGH THIS ROCK FOR SOME REASON...
HOLY MOLY!
THE SAVAGE LAND IS THE LAST PIECE OF EARTH FROZEN IN TIME AND UNMOLESTED BY SEVERAL MILLENIA OF TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS...
SURELY THERE WAS A SCUFFLE BETWEEN KA-ZAR AND THE X-MEN BUT BOTH PARTIES EVENTUALLY COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING...
HUFF.. PUFF.. PANT...
CYCLOP'S RIPPED SHIRT
THE X-MEN CONCLUDE THAT THE MUTANT THEY'VE BEEN TRACKING BUT KA-ZAR SHOWS THEM WHERE THE MUTANT HAS BEEN.
OH, MAN...
THESE POOR PEOPLE ARE NO MORE THAN HUSKS OF FLESH...


THE COSMIC BEING KNOWN AS THE STRANGER TOOK NOTE THAT MUTANT MASTER MAY BE CLOSE TO DISCOVERING THE PHOENIX FORCES NEXT HOST ON EARTH.
THE STRANGER STUDIED ENOUGH OF THE EARTH'S CUSTOMS TO KNOW HOW TO ELICIT A REACTION FROM THE RIGHT PEOPLE...
LOOKIT THAT GUY!
FLOATING?
IT'S A SHAM. HE GOT WIRES ON 'IM.
IT WORKS.
I'VE NEVER MET A BEING WITH INHERENT POWER SUCH AS YOURS. YOU'LL COME WITH ME?
I WAS ABOUT TO DO THE SAME THING, STRANGER...
MASTERMIND CAUGHT THE WORST OF THE ENTIRE EXCHANGE...
HARD AS A ROCK?
DINK DINK DINK
THE STRANGER REGISTERED AS A MUTANT VIA CERESRO, BUT THE X-MEN ARRIVED JUST AFTER THE ALIEN DISAPPEARED WITH MAGNETO.
I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT, BUT I CAN FEEL MASTERMIND IS STILL ALIVE IN THAT SHELL.
MAYBE THE... PROFESSOR CAN HELP?
HALFWAY TO MARS BY NOW


FRANKLY, PROFESSOR, I'M STUMPED WITH HOW WE'LL BE ABLE TO HELP MASTERMIND...
THIS IS DEFINITAY GONG TO BE A CHALLENGE...
EEEEEEEEEEE
SOMEONE TRIPPED THE PERIMETER ALARM!
FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE: ELECTRIC FIELDS
SECOND LINE OF DEFENSE: HOMING GRENADES
THIRD LINE OF DEFENSE: SLEEPING GAS
FOURTH LINE OF DEFENSE: THE X-MEN...
PREVENTED XAVIER'S PSYCHIC ATTACK!
CAIN MARKO!?
ULP!
HEY! MASTERMIND'S BODY IS ~~DISAPPEARED~~ MISSING!!

THE MASS MEDIA'S PROPAGANDA SURROUNDING MUTANT HOSTILITY IS REACHING ITS TIPPING POINT.

MUTANT MENACE

CHARLES XAVIER HOPED TO HAVE AN INTELLIGENT DEBATE ON TELEVISION TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT.

MR TRASK, IF YOU ARE PROPOSING TO HUNT DOWN MUTANTS LIKE DOGS...

THEN I'M AFRAID THAT THE MORE AGGRESSIVE MUTANTS MAY BE CORRECT IN THEIR PARANOIA...

UNFORTUNATELY, THE DEBATE COULD MORE ACCURATELY BE DESCRIBED AS A COMMERCIAL FOR TRASK'S DEVIOUS WISHES...

THE SENTINELS EXCEL AT DETECTING MUTANTS, THE UNFORSEEN ISSUE IS THAT THEY'LL DESTROY EVERYTHING BETWEEN THEM AND THEIR TARGET.

THE SYNERGY OF THE X-MEN HAD TO BE FLAWLESS TO OVERCOME THE ROBOT PROTOTYPES AND EVEN STILL, THE MUTANT TEENAGERS ALMOST MET THEIR MATCH...

ITS ALMOST PERFECT THAT THE ONLY CASUALTY IN THE SCUFFLE WAS THE CREATOR OF THESE DISCRIMINATORY WAR MACHINES... AT THE HAND OF HIS CREATIONS, NO LESS.

BOLIVAR TRASKS SON, LARRY KNOWS WHAT TO DO TO CARRY ON HIS FATHER'S VISION AND THE GOALS OF HIS SECRET CABAL, THE RIGHT.

WE HAVE THE MASTER MOLD AT A SECRET LOCATION.

WE CAN BEGIN PRODUCTION ON MORE SENTINELS IN A FEW MONTHS...

ONCE THE EXCITEMENT OF BATTLE WORE OFF, THE X-MEN REALIZED THEY WERE HURT FAR WORSE THAN THEY THOUGHT.

WHILE THE X-MEN ARE OUT OF COMMISSION MUTANT MASTER TAKES THE OPPORTUNITY TO GENERATE AS MUCH FEAR, HATE AND DISTRUST AGAINST THEM AS POSSIBLE.

COOPERATE AN' NUNYUZ GIT HURT!

BANK

THE BLOB

UNUS, THE UNTOUCHABLE

ALL GOOD WILL THAT THE X-MEN GENERATED VANISHES ALMOST INSTANTANEOUS.

WE ASSURE YOU...

THE X-MEN WILL BE APPREHENDED ON SIGHT!

THE CONVALESCING MUTANTS ARE FORCED TO DISRUPT THEIR RECOVERY IN HOPES OF DISCOVERING THE SOURCE OF THE DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN.

JUK

THE TRAIL LEADS TO A WEAPONIZED SUPER COMPUTER MORE POWERFUL THAN CELESTE CALLED DOMINUS. THE MACHINE KNEW THE X-MEN WERE ON THEIR WAY AND HAD TIME TO PREPARE.

AFTER GETTING DISMANTLED BY THE X-MEN, BEAST REALIZES THAT THE COMPUTER WAS POWERED WITH NUCLEAR ENERGY.

COULD LUCIFER HAVE BEEN BEHIND THIS?

COUNT NEFARIA HAS BIG PLANS OF DOMINATION AND KNOWS THAT PATIENCE IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS.

YOU SAY A LIFE-SIZE-PROJECTION IS POSSIBLE, TINKERER?

YESSIR

HIS FIRST GOAL IS TO CONTINUE DISCREDITING THE X-MEN IN THE EYES OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

RUN!

A MUTIE!

GENERATED

NEFARIA USES THE SAME MACHINE THAT ~~CRATED~~ THE X-MEN ILLUSION TO CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT WASHINGTON DC IS BEING HELD HOSTAGE.

THE X-MEN QUICKLY ARRIVE, TO TRY AND RESTORE FAITH IN THE COMMUNITY. ~~BY SLAYING~~

COUNT NEFARIA HIRED A BUNCH OF LOWLY VILLAINS IN THE EVENT THAT SOME SUPER POWERED DO-GOODERS ~~SHOULD~~ SHOW UP. HE HAS NEED FOR A CALAMITOUS DIVERSION AND HE GETS ONE.

EVEN THOUGH THE X-MEN ARE VICTORIOUS OVER NEFARIA'S HENCHMEN...

HEROES OR VILLAINS?

WHILE ~~A~~ THE X-MEN WERE ACROSS TOWN DIVERTING THE ATTENTION OF ALL FIRST-RESPONDERS...

THE DEVICE CAN ESCAPE METAL DETECTION, TINKERER?

YESSIR.

NEFARIA KNOWS THAT THIS TRUCK WILL BE ON ITS WAY TO NORD IN A DAY OR SO.

GOOD. VERY GOOD.

PROFESSOR, THE POLITICAL CLIMATE HAS MADE IT TOO DANGEROUS FOR ME TO BE AN X-MAN. I'M ANNOUNCING MY RETIREMENT.

TRY AS THEY MAY, THE X-MEN CAN'T CONVINCE JEAN GREY TO STAY WITH THE TEAM.

"REMEMBER ME AND SMILE, FOR IT'S BETTER TO FORGET THAN TO REMEMBER ME AND CRY..." THEODORE GEISEL

I'LL COME HANG OUT EVERY WEEKEND, JEANNIE.

WE'RE THE BIGGEST DONORS AT METRO COLLEGE. I'LL SEE THAT YOU HAVE THE BEST DORM ON CAMPUS.

JEANS TRANSITION INTO A PURELY ACADEMIC LIFE WOULD ALWAYS BE TESTED AS NEW CATASTROPHES BEFELL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

SLOWLY SHE STARTED BECOMING FAMILIAR WITH THE STUDENT BODY. A BOY NAMED MORDECAI WAS QUICK TO MAKE HER ACQUAINTANCE.

... THE RENAISSANCE FAIR IS NEXT WEEK. JOIN ME?

WHAT'S A RENNAISANCE FAIR?

THIS WAS A LOT OF FUN MORDECAI. I HAVE TO GO STUDY NOW, THOUGH...

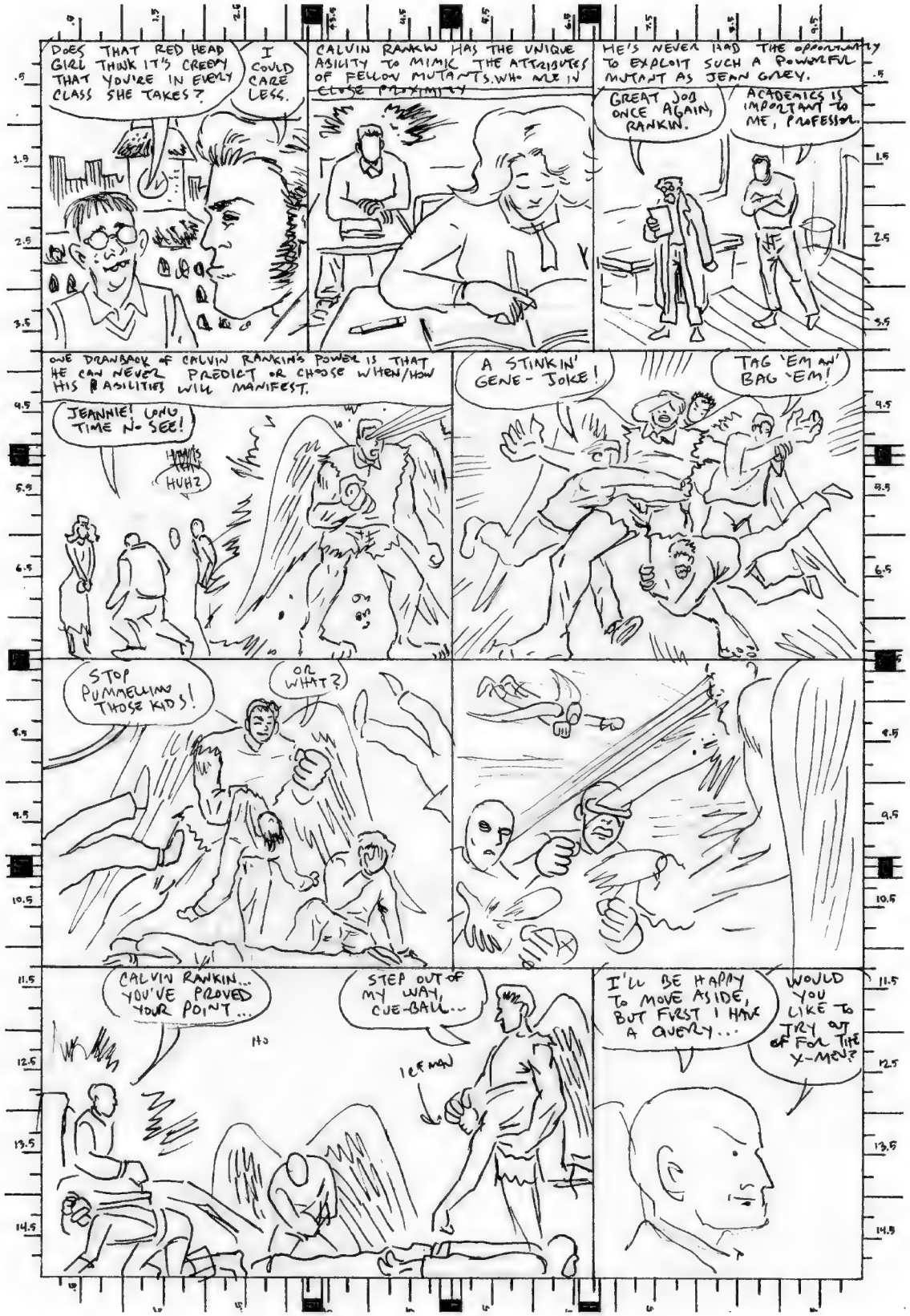
UM.. ARE YOU SURE? UH... OKAY.

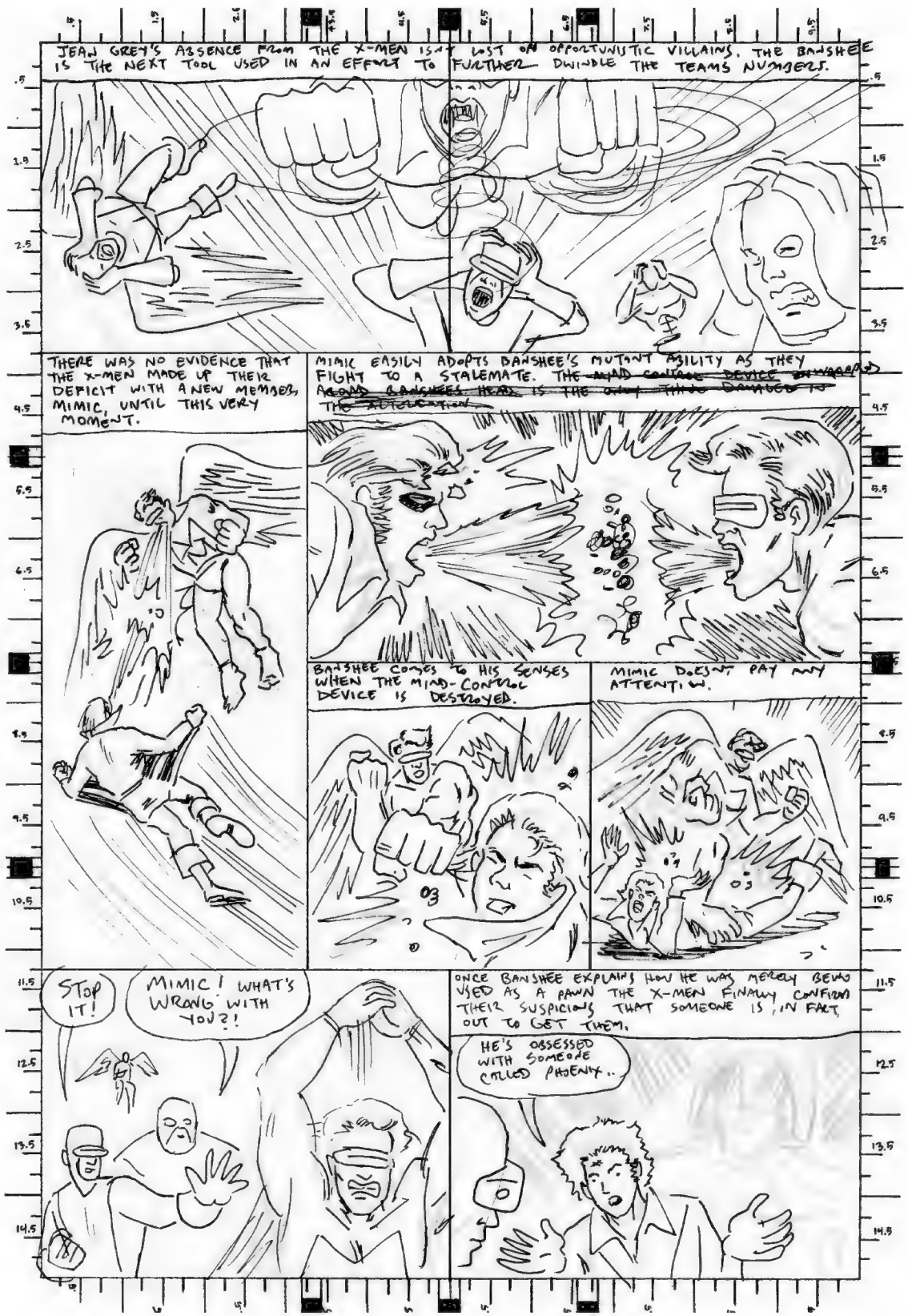
WHEN JEAN WAS FINALLY ABLE TO PUSH HER AFFECTIONS FOR SCOTT SUMMERS TO THE BACK OF HER MIND, HER ROMANTIC INTERESTS BECAME ENTERTAINED BY A STAR ATHLETE AT THE UNIVERSITY, TED ROBERTS.

HARUMPH!

I CONFESS MY FIRST ATTEMPT WAS A FAILURE...

...BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU I'M LEARNING MORE AND MORE ABOUT HOW HER PSYCHE REACTS TO DIFFERENT STIMULI. WE'LL GET HER. WE'LL GET HER!


DOES THAT RED HEAD GIRL THINK IT'S CREEPY THAT YOU'RE IN EVERY CLASS SHE TAKES?
I COULD CARE LESS.
CALVIN RANKIN HAS THE UNIQUE ABILITY TO MIMIC THE ATTRIBUTES OF FELLOW MUTANTS, WHO ARE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY
HE'S NEVER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLOIT SUCH A POWERFUL MUTANT AS JEAN GREY.
GREAT JOB ONCE AGAIN, RANKIN.
ACADEMICS IS IMPORTANT TO ME, PROFESSOR.
ONE DRAWBACK OF CALVIN RANKIN'S POWER IS THAT HE CAN NEVER PREDICT OR CHOOSE WHEN/HOW HIS ABILITIES WILL MANIFEST.
JEANNIE! LONG TIME NO SEE!
HUHZ
A STINKIN' GENE-JOKE!
TAG 'EM AN' BAG 'EM!
STOP PUMMELLING THOSE KIDS!
OR WHAT?
CALVIN RANKIN... YOU'VE PROVED YOUR POINT...
STEP OUT OF MY WAY, CUE-BALL...
HO
ICE MAN
I'LL BE HAPPY TO MOVE ASIDE, BUT FIRST I HAVE A QUERY...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY OUT FOR THE X-MEN?


JEAN GREY'S ABSENCE FROM THE X-MEN ISN'T LOST ON OPPORTUNISTIC VILLAINS. THE BANSHEE IS THE NEXT TOOL USED IN AN EFFORT TO FURTHER DWINDLE THE TEAMS NUMBERS.
THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE X-MEN MADE UP THEIR DEFICIT WITH A NEW MEMBER, MIMIC, UNTIL THIS VERY MOMENT.
MIMIC EASILY ADOPTS BANSHEE'S MUTANT ABILITY AS THEY FIGHT TO A STALEMATE.
BANSHEE COMES TO HIS SENSES WHEN THE MIND-CONTROL DEVICE IS DESTROYED.
MIMIC DOESN'T PAY ANY ATTENTION.
STOP IT!
MIMIC! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
ONCE BANSHEE EXPLAINS HOW HE WAS MERELY BEING USED AS A PAWN THE X-MEN FINALLY CONFIRM THEIR SUSPICIONS THAT SOMEONE IS, IN FACT, OUT TO GET THEM.
HE'S OBSESSED WITH SOMEONE CALLED PHOENIX..

YOU WERE NOT AUTHORIZED TO ENGAGE IN BATTLE... YOUR VICIOUS BEATING OF BANSHEE IS UNFORGIVEABLE... YOUR...

I GET THE PITCHER. SEE YA' ROUND.

INSPIRED TO FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE, MUTANT MASTER USES EXTRATERRESTRIAL SOLUTIONS TO DESIGN A MIMIC OF HIS VERY OWN.

...THE SUPER ADAPTOID!

SUPER ADAPTOIDS TRIAL RUN AGAINST THE AVENGERS WAS A MODERATE SUCCESS AND HELPED SHAPE IT'S AESTHETIC...

WHEN THE CREATURE MET THE X-MEN THEY DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE...

OOOF!

OVER HERE, CREEP!

A DANGEROUS BIOFEEDBACK LOOP ENCAPSULATES ADAPTOID AND MIMIC AS THEY BOTH NATURALLY TRY TO ASSORB EACH OTHER'S POWER.

THE RESULTING EFFECTS DESTROY THE ADAPTOID AND RENDER MIMIC'S MUTANT ABILITY COMPLETELY IMPOTENT.

1

WHA?

WHERE ARE YOU TAKIN ME?

2

MERLIN?

3

MY PRINCESS. WE HAVE IMPORTANT BUSINESS BACK AT ~~THE~~ CASTLE...

GILEY

HOW WILL WE GET THERE?

4

THE ROYAL UNICORNS, OF COURSE...

HOW COULD I FORGET...

5

IT WILL BE A FUN DAY. I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU ENJOY EXECUTIONS

6

THIS PEASANT CALLED XAVIER HAS BEEN OPERATING AGAINST YOUR BEST INTERESTS, PRINCESS.

JEAN!

7

LISTEN TO ME, JEAN! FIGHT HARD. SOMEONE IS INSIDE YOUR MIND!

8

I NEED YOU TO FIGHT HARD, YOU CAN'T LET THEM WIN!

UM?

9

THIS GIVES ME AN EMPTY FEELING, MERLIN.

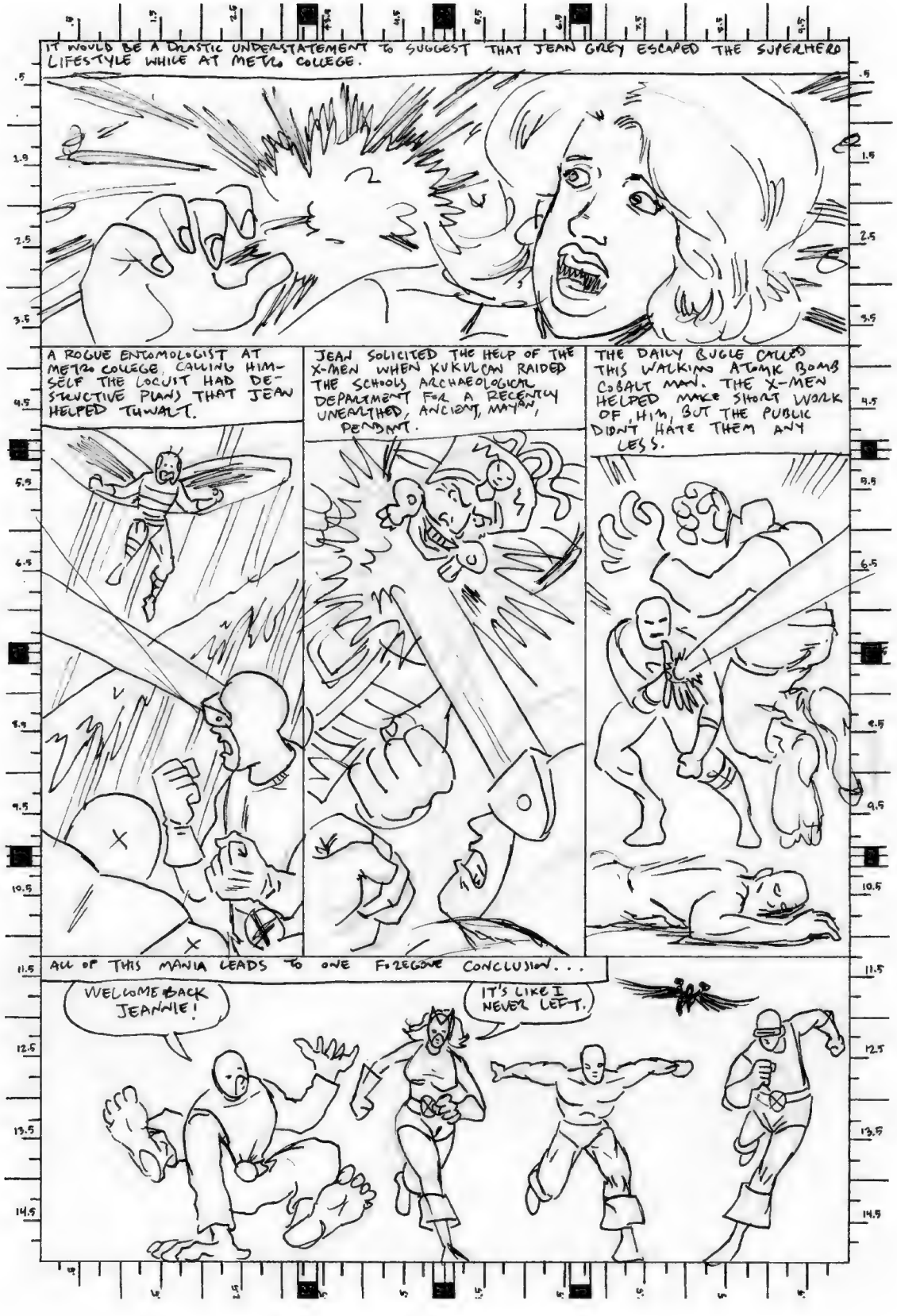
10

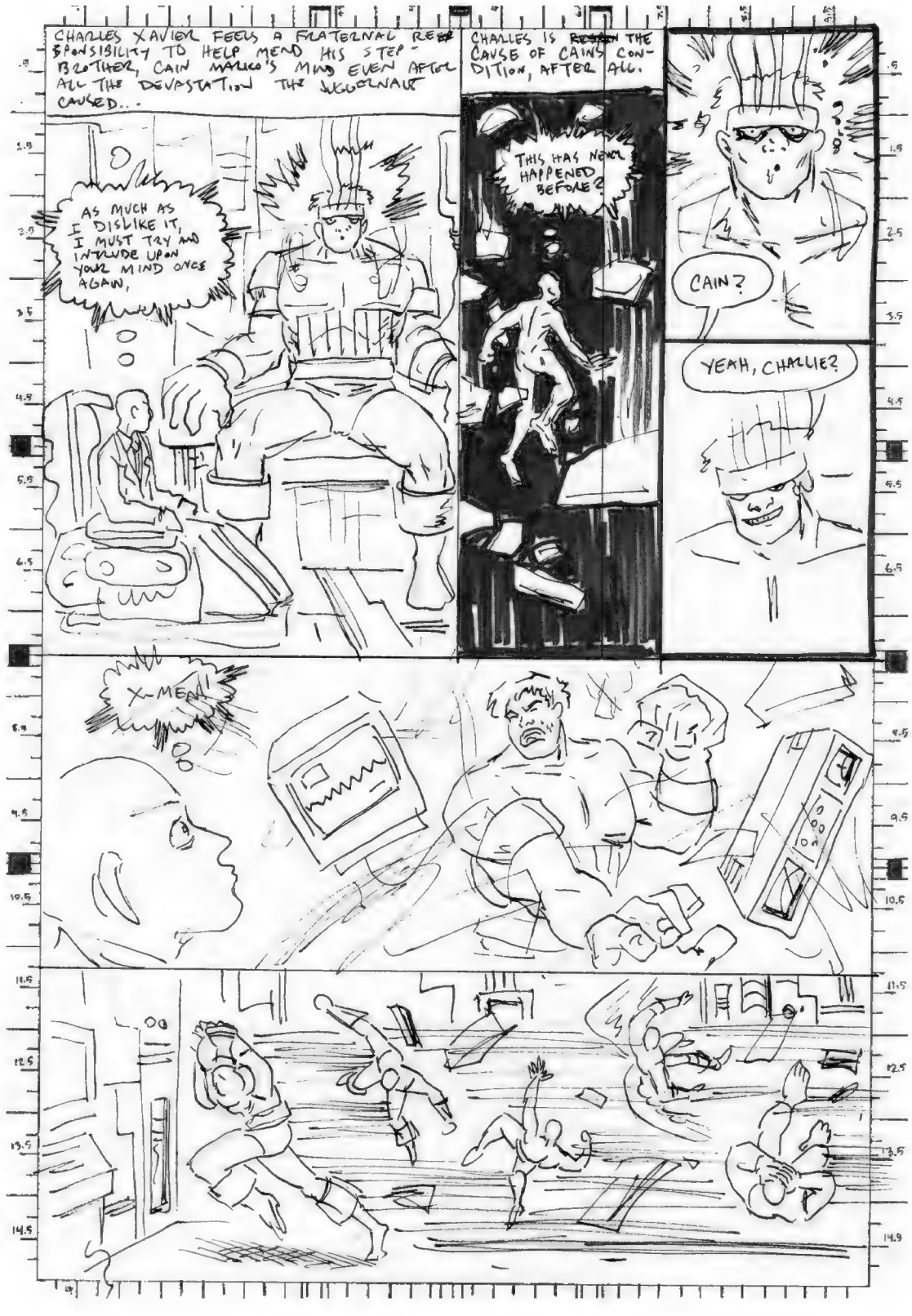
JEAN! HOW COULD YOU?...

AAAAA!

IS EVERYTHING OKAY, JEANNIE?

GO BACK TO SLEEP, TED.

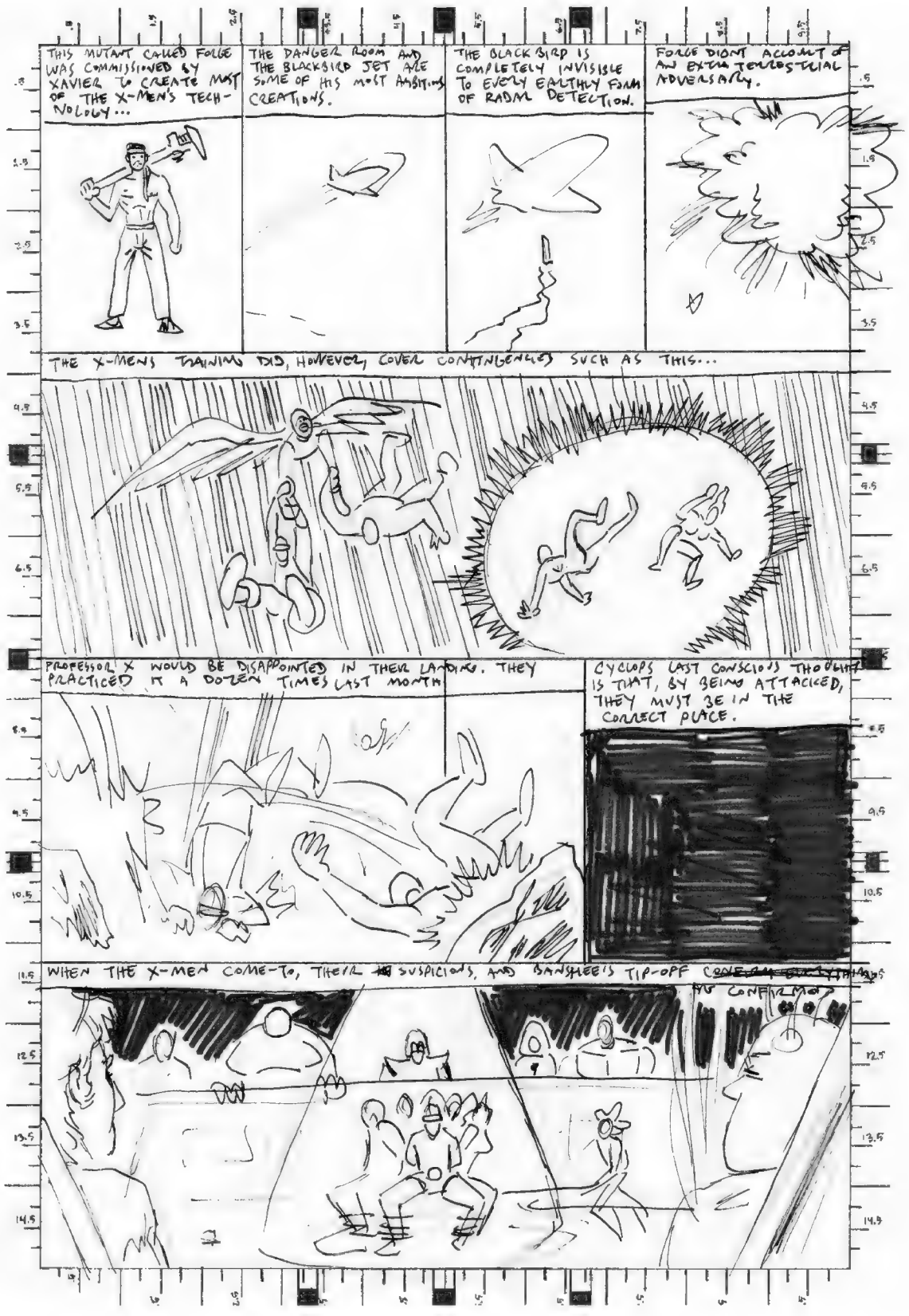

IT WOULD BE A DRASTIC UNDERSTATEMENT TO SUGGEST THAT JEAN GREY ESCAPED THE SUPERHERO LIFESTYLE WHILE AT METRO COLLEGE.
A ROGUE ENTOMOLOGIST AT METRO COLLEGE, CALLING HIMSELF THE LOCUST HAD DESTRUCTIVE PLANS THAT JEAN HELPED TUWALT.
JEAN SOLICITED THE HELP OF THE X-MEN WHEN KUKULCAN RAIDED THE SCHOOLS ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT FOR A RECENTLY UNEARTHED, ANCIENT, MAYAN, PENDANT.
THE DAILY BUGLE CALLED THIS WALKING ATOMIC BOMB COBALT MAN. THE X-MEN HELPED MAKE SHORT WORK OF HIM, BUT THE PUBLIC DIDN'T HATE THEM ANY LESS.
ALL OF THIS MANIA LEADS TO ONE FOREGONE CONCLUSION...
WELCOME BACK JEANNIE!
IT'S LIKE I NEVER LEFT.

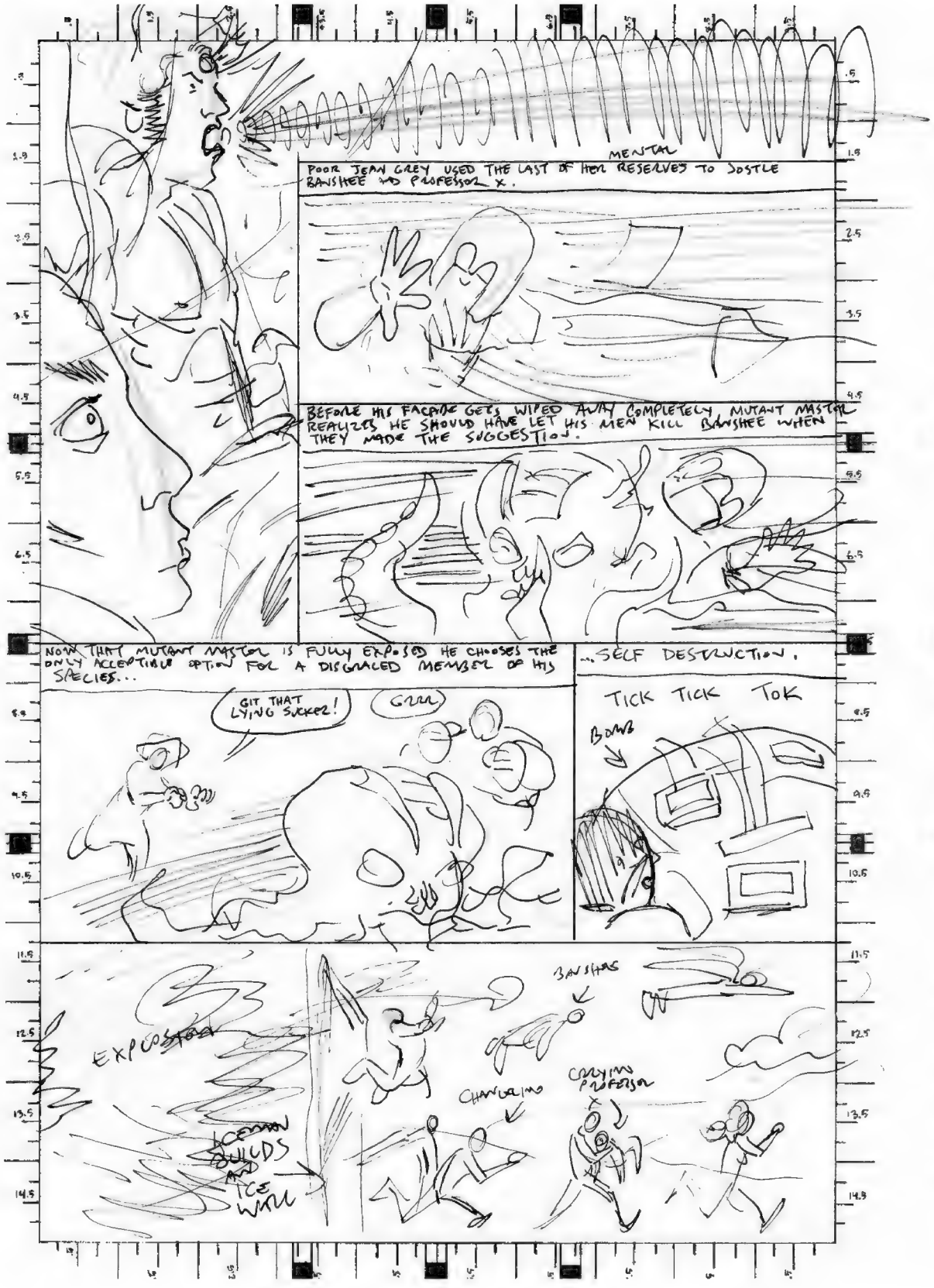

CHARLES XAVIER FEELS A FRATERNAL RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP MEND HIS STEP-BROTHER, CAIN MARKO'S MIND EVEN AFTER ALL THE DEVASTATION THE JUGGERNAUT CAUSED...
AS MUCH AS I DISLIKE IT, I MUST TRY AND INTRUDE UPON YOUR MIND ONCE AGAIN,
CHARLES IS THE CAUSE OF CAIN'S CONDITION, AFTER ALL.
THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE?
CAIN?
YEAH, CHARLIE?
X-MEN!

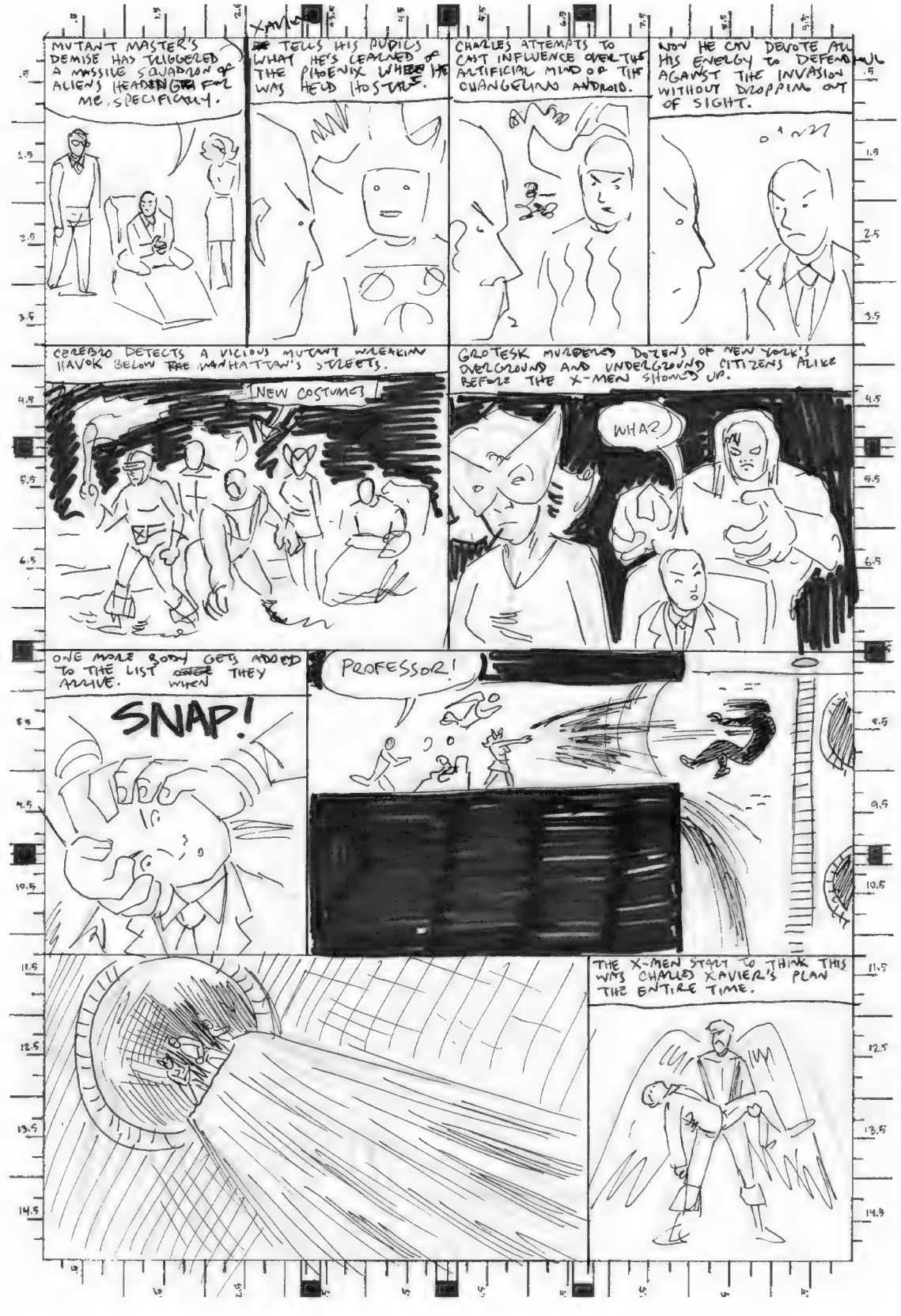
WHERE...
WHERE'S THE PROFESSOR?
JUGGERNAUT KNOWS THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE THING THAT CAN BE CALLING TO HIM WITH SUCH POWERFUL ENERGY, THE CRYSTAL OF CYTORRAK!
MAKE JUGGS BREAK PAWN
HE WASN'T EXPECTING TO MEET THE BANSHEE'S EVIL COUSIN, BLACK TOM CASSIDY.
'AY BOYO, YE HELP ME WIT' ME FAMILY TROUBLES AN' I'LL HELP YEE?
GIMME MY RUBY!
PROFESSOR?
PROFESSOR!
PROFESSOR WHERE ARE YOU?
NOTHING, JEAN?

DR. DOOM, MOLE MAN... NONE OF OUR BIGGEST SUSPECTS HAVE SOLID INFORMATION ON XAVIERS WHEREABOUTS.
SERVES THE LITTLE MUTIE SYMPATHIZER RIGHT...
SOMETHING IS GOING ON IN A SMALL SCOTTISH PROVINCE BUT ITS OUT OF OUR JURISDICTION...
INSPIRED BY THIS POSSIBLE LEAD REGARDING PROFESSOR XAVIERS WHEREABOUTS, JEAN GREY ATTEMPTS TO BOOST HER EXISTING MENTAL POWERS IN A WAY SHE'S NEVER ATTEMPTED BEFORE...
EVER SINCE HE WAS INITIALLY BRAINWASHED BY MUTANT MASTER, BANSHEE HAS BEEN ON HIS TRAIL.
ARE YOU POSITIVE, BANSHEE?
YES, JEAN. THEY HAVE XAVIER.
I'M ON MY WAY TO GO GET 'IM FOR YE.
...THE LEAST I C'N DO.
BANSHEE, LOOK OUT!
HUH?
AAAAAH!
BANSHEE!

CAN WE JUST KILL THE RED-HEAD THIS TIME?
NO! THIS BRAINWASHING TECHNOLOGY I'LL BE USING ON XAVIER IS FAR MORE POWERFUL THAN EARLIER VERSIONS. BANSHEE WILL BE OUR TEST SUBJECT.
MUTANT MASTER HAS BEEN ON EARTH LONG ENOUGH TO MAKE THE DETERMINATION, WITHIN A HIGH PROBABILITY THAT CHARLES XAVIER IS GOING TO BE THE INEVITABLE HOST OF THE ENCROACHING PHOENIX FORCE...
IF WE ARE ABLE TO TAKE CONTROL HIS EVERY THOUGHT BEFORE THE DAY HE MAKES CONTACT WITH PHOENIX...
" WE WILL MAKE THE PHOENIX OUR PUPPET AND WIELD ULTIMATE POWER IN EVERY KNOWN UNIVERSE...
I CAN HAVE NO DISRUPTIONS WHEN I BEGIN WORKING TO CONTROL XAVIER'S PSYCHE--
THE X-MEN ARE SURELY ON THEIR WAY. THE PRIORITY IS TO DESTROY THEM, MY MINIONS.


THIS MUTANT CALLED FORCE WAS COMMISSIONED BY XAVIER TO CREATE MOST OF THE X-MEN'S TECHNOLOGY...
THE DANGER ROOM AND THE BLACKBIRD JET ARE SOME OF HIS MOST AMBITIOUS CREATIONS.
THE BLACKBIRD IS COMPLETELY INVISIBLE TO EVERY EARTHLY FORM OF RADAR DETECTION.
FORCE DIDN'T ACCOUNT OF AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL ADVERSARY.
THE X-MEN'S TRAINING DID, HOWEVER, COVER CONTINGENCIES SUCH AS THIS...
PROFESSOR X WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED IN THEIR LANDING. THEY PRACTICED IT A DOZEN TIMES LAST MONTH
CYCLOPS' LAST CONSCIOUS THOUGHT IS THAT, BY BEING ATTACKED, THEY MUST BE IN THE CORRECT PLACE.
WHEN THE X-MEN COME-TO, THEIR SUSPICIONS, AND BANSHEE'S TIP-OFF
NO CONFIRMATION


MENTAL
POOR JEAN GREY USED THE LAST OF HER RESERVES TO JOSTLE BANSHEE AND PROFESSOR X.
BEFORE HIS FACADE GETS WIPED AWAY COMPLETELY, MUTANT MASTER REALIZES HE SHOULD HAVE LET HIS MEN KILL BANSHEE WHEN THEY MADE THE SUGGESTION.
NOW THAT MUTANT MASTER IS FULLY EXPOSED HE CHOOSES THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE OPTION FOR A DISGRACED MEMBER OF HIS SPECIES...
GIT THAT LYING SUCKER!
GRR
...SELF DESTRUCTION.
TICK TICK TOK
BOMB
EXPLOSION
BANSHEE
CHANGELING
CRYIN PROFESSOR X
ICEMAN BUILDS ICE WALL


MUTANT MASTER'S DEMISE HAS TRIGGERED A MASSIVE SQUADRON OF ALIENS HEADING FOR ME, SPECIFICALLY.
X-MEN TELLS HIS DUDES WHAT HE'S LEARNED OF THE PHOENIX WHERE HE WAS HELD HOSTAGE.
CHARLES ATTEMPTS TO GAIN INFLUENCE OVER THE ARTIFICIAL MIND OF THE CHANGELING ANDROID.
NOW HE CAN DEVOTE ALL HIS ENERGY TO DEFEND AGAINST THE INVASION WITHOUT DROPPING OUT OF SIGHT.
CEREBRO DETECTS A VICIOUS MUTANT WREAKING HAVOK BELOW MANHATTAN'S STREETS.
NEW COSTUME!
GROTESK MURDERED DOZENS OF NEW YORK'S OVERGROUND AND UNDERGROUND CITIZENS ALIKE BEFORE THE X-MEN SHOWED UP.
WHAT?
ONE MORE BODY GETS ADDED TO THE LIST WHEN THEY ARRIVE.
SNAP!
PROFESSOR!
THE X-MEN START TO THINK THIS WAS CHARLES XAVIER'S PLAN THE ENTIRE TIME.

THE X-MEN WERE INCREDIBLY UNCOMFORTABLE KEEPING UP THE MASQUERADE TO THE EXTENT XAVIER REQUIRED BUT THEY HAD TO TRUST THEIR RUSE WAS FOR THE GREATER GOOD.

ASHES TO ASHES...

SOB!

HE'S UNRECOGNIZABLE TO THE YOUNG MUTANTS WITHOUT HIS HELMET BUT THEY'D BE SHOCKED TO SEE MAGNETO AMONGST THE MOURNERS..

OH CHARLES.. GOODBYE, MY FRIEND.

AFTER WHAT SEEMED AN ETERNITY HE BROKE FROM THE STRANGE'S MENAGERIE OF A HOMEWORLD FAR OUT OF OUR GALAXY...

THE STRANGER WITH COLLECTING REWARDS HE THOUGHT MAY BE POTENT, SUITORS OF THE ALL-POWERFUL PHOENIX FORCE.

YOU'LL HAVE A LITTLE COMPANY UNTIL I BUILD AN EXHIBIT FOR THIS NEW ONE...

IT WAS A MISTAKE TO PUT A METAL MACHINE MAN NEAR MAGNUS.

ONCE A MATTER OF MAGNETISM LOCATES A VESSEL OF FAMILIAR ALLOYS, HE DOESN'T NEED TO BE A MASTER PILOT.

UPON ENTERING EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE THE G-FORCES CAUSE MAGNETO TO PASS OUT SOMEWHERE OVER ANTARCTICA...

WHEN HE EMERGED FROM THE JUNGLE HE WAS IN PARADISE...

~~WHAT~~ I MUST HAVE BUMPED MY HEAD?

SAVAGE LAND

~~BUT~~ NOW HERE HE IS...

THE ONLY POSITIVE IN YOUR DEATH IS THAT YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO HALT WHAT I HAVE PLANNED...

JUST WHEN XAVIER'S STUDENTS THINK THEY CAN FIND REFUGE BACK AT THE MANSION ON GRAYMALKIN LANE.

NO CHANCE YOU MUTIE DORKS WILL CLUE ME IN ON WHAT'S GOING ON, WILL YA?

WE KNOW XAVIER ISN'T REALLY DEAD...

MY GUYS HAVE ~~BEEN~~ TRACKING XAVIER ACROSS THE COUNTRY AS I SPEAK. WE HAVE OUR OWN MUTIES WHO CAN SEE THROUGH HIS DISGUISES.

SO TELL ME. WHAT'S WITH ALL THE SHENANIGANS?

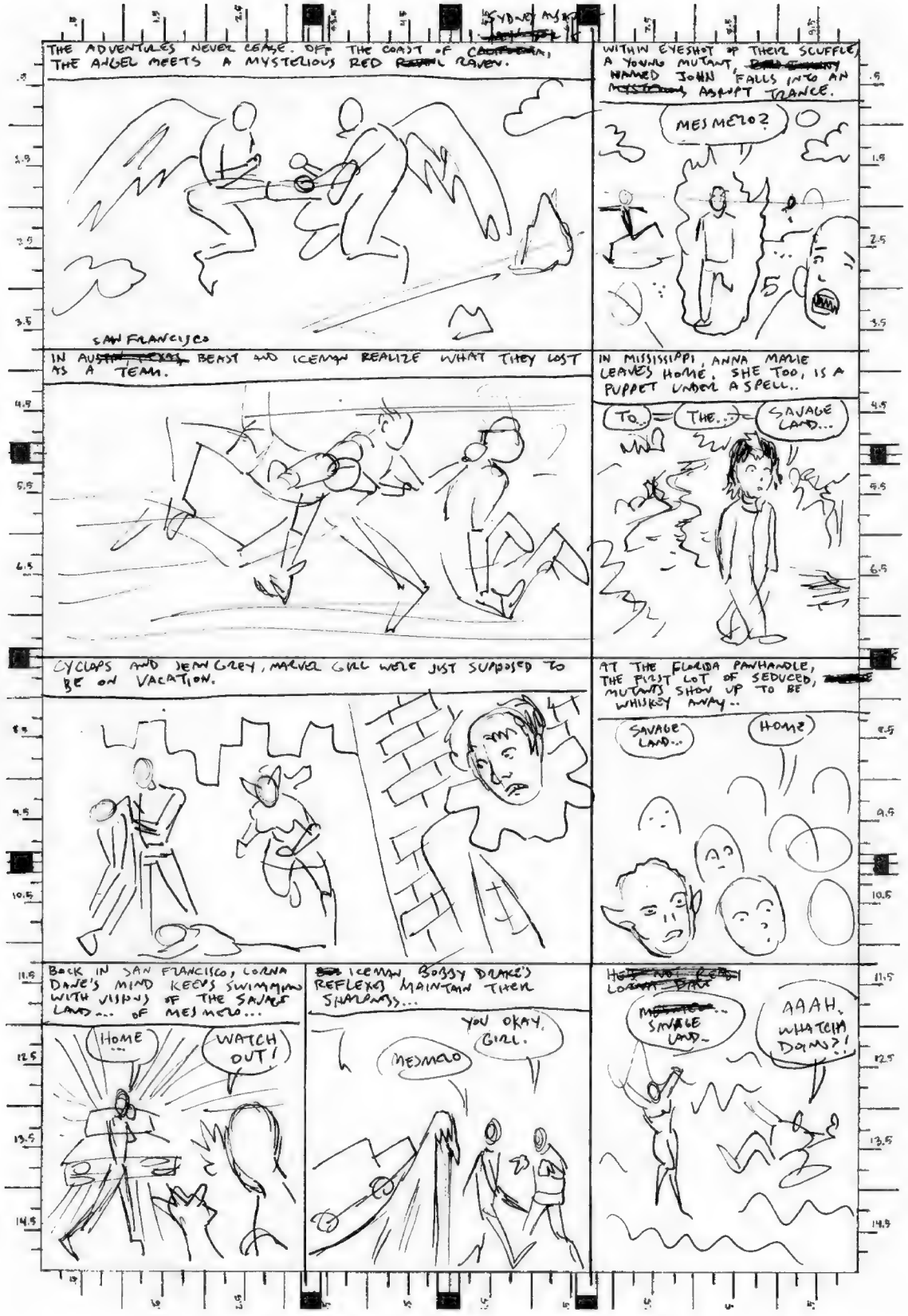
THE TOTAL INSUBORDINATION OF XAVIER'S YOUNG STUDENTS PUSHES THE HAND OF NICK FURY, LEADER OF SHIELD.*

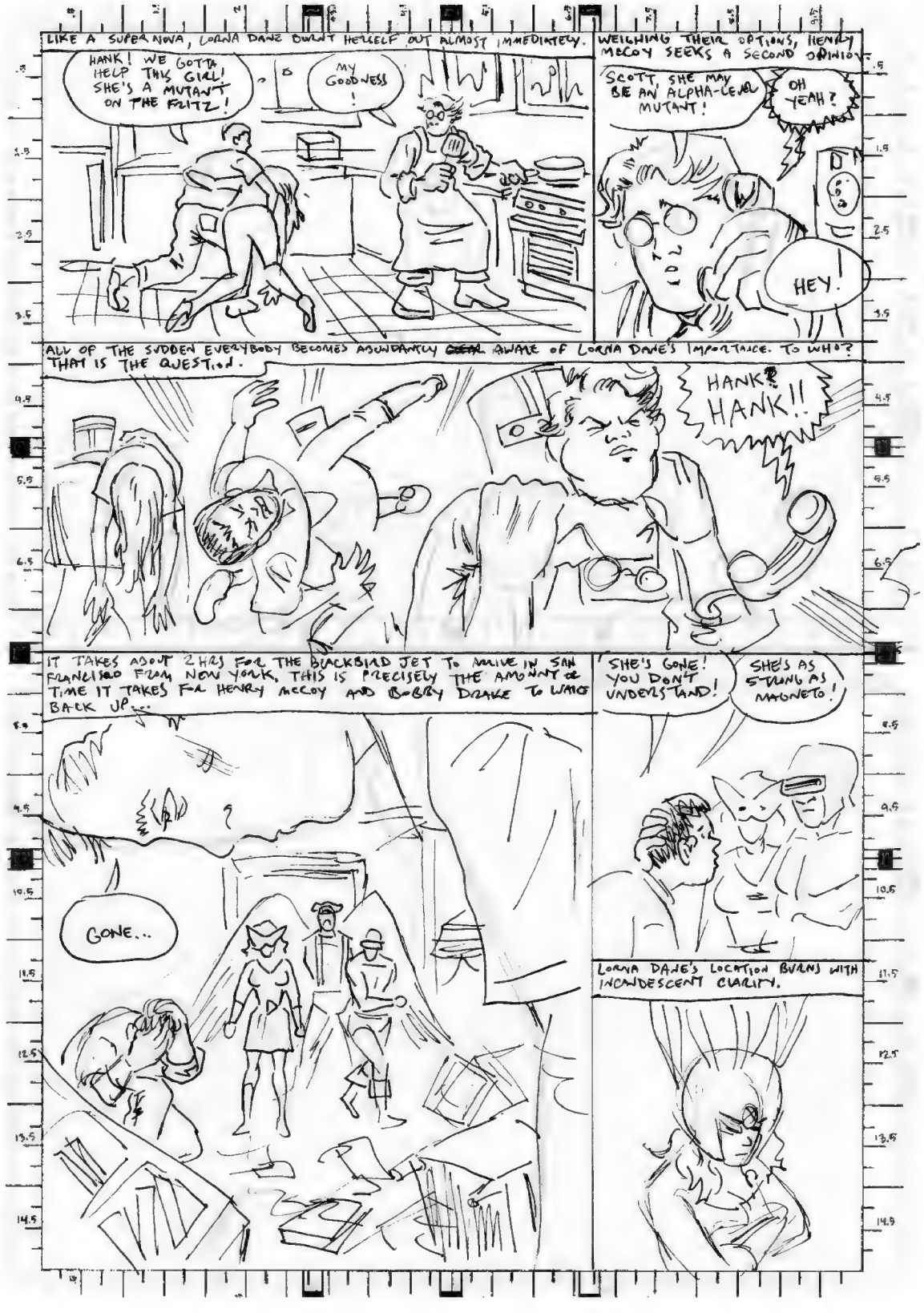
...EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, THE X-MEN ARE NO LONGER TO OPERATE UNLESS AUTHORIZED BY ME...

FAILURE TO ABIDE WILL BE CONSIDERED A TERRORIST ACT...

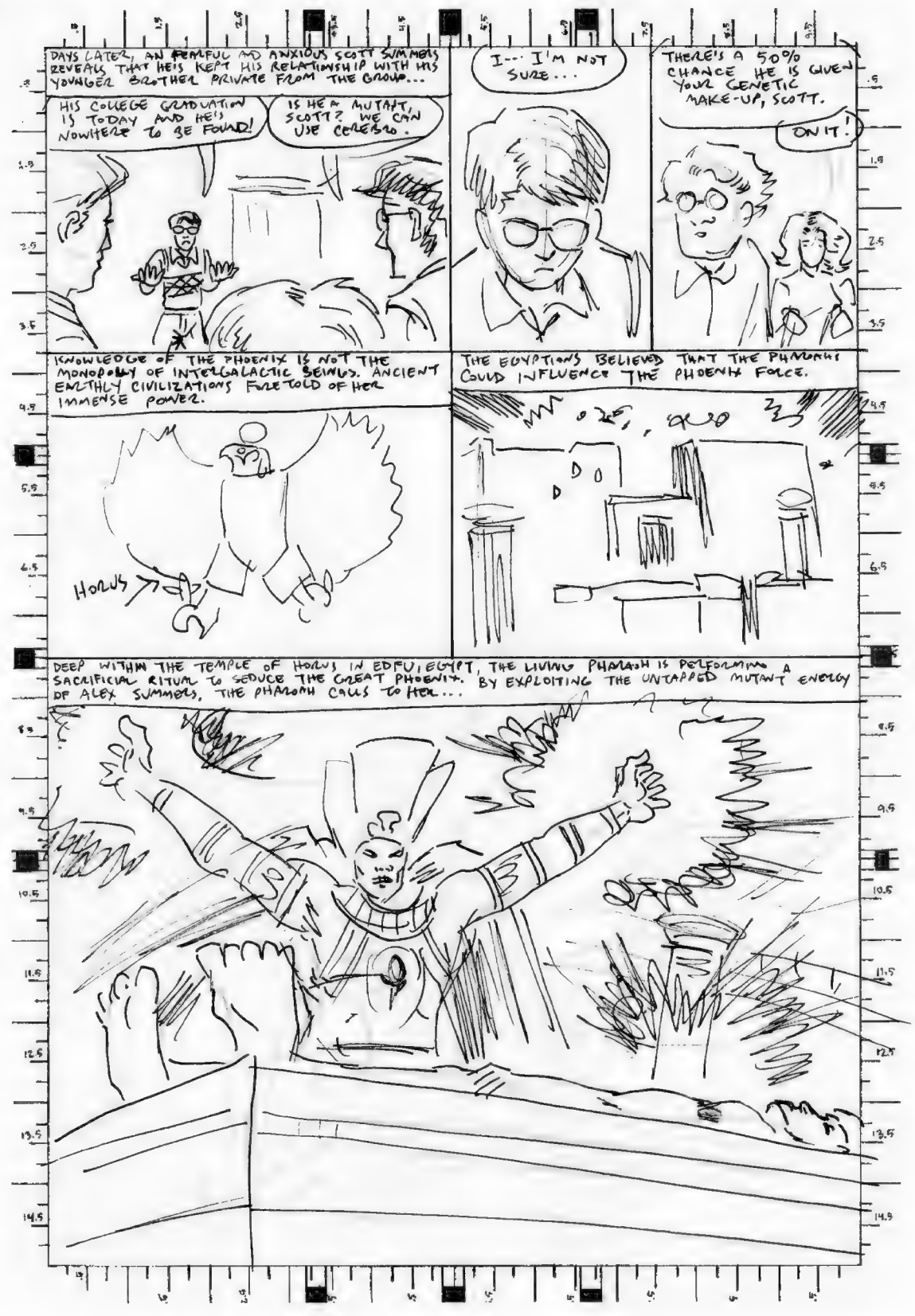
* SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVI

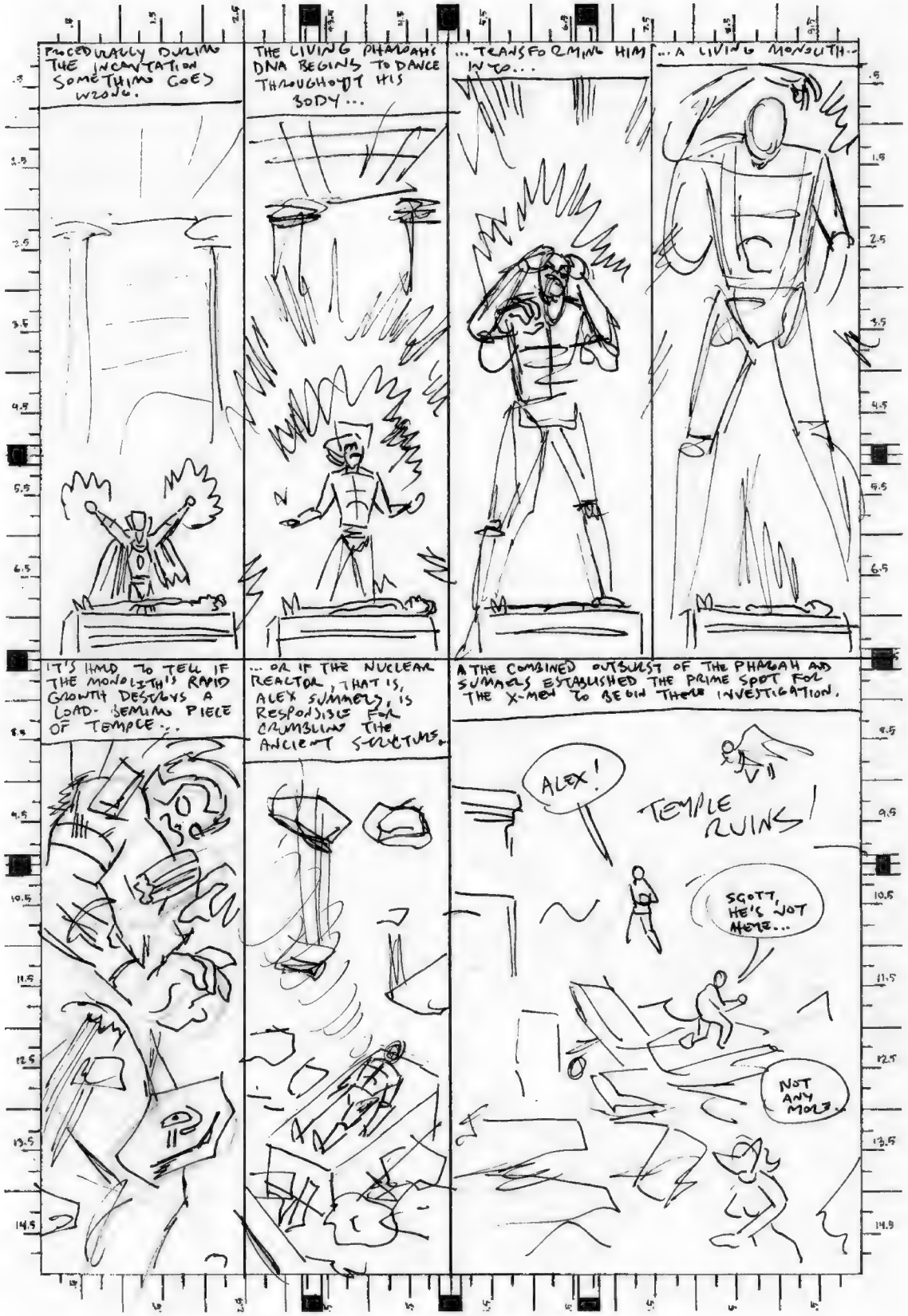
~~THERE WAS NO QUESTION THAT~~ THE ONLY CONCESSION THE BAND OF MUTANTS ARE WILLING TO MAKE IS THEIR UNANIMOUS CHOICE TO SPLIT UP AND OPERATE INDEPENDENTLY WHILE CARRYING ON PROFESSOR XAVIER'S MISSION. SYMBOLICALLY THEY DESIGN NEW COSTUMES FOR THIS STAGE OF THEIR JOURNEY.

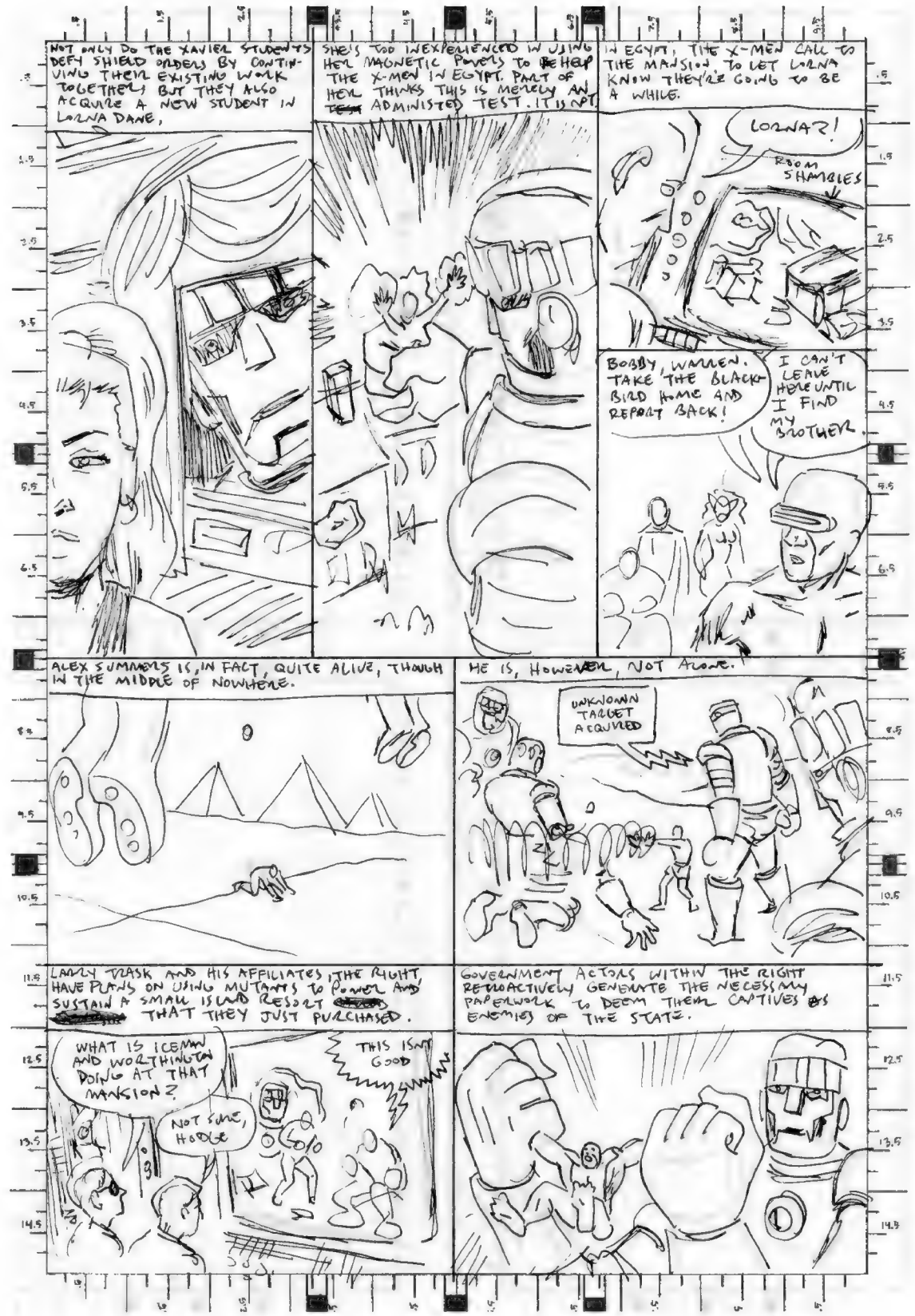

THE ADVENTURES NEVER CEASE. OFF THE COAST OF CALIFORNIA, THE ANGEL MEETS A MYSTERIOUS RED RAVEN.
SAN FRANCISCO
WITHIN EYESHOT OF THEIR SCUFFLE, A YOUNG MUTANT, NAMED JOHN FALLS INTO AN ASHPT TRANCE.
MESMERO?
IN AUSTIN, TEXAS, BEAST AND ICEMAN REALIZE WHAT THEY LOST AS A TEAM.
IN MISSISSIPPI, ANNA MARIE LEAVES HOME. SHE TOO, IS A PUPPET UNDER A SPELL..
TO..
THE..
SAVAGE LAND...
CYCLOPS AND JEAN GREY, MARVEL GIRL WERE JUST SUPPOSED TO BE ON VACATION.
AT THE FLORIDA PANHANDLE, THE FIRST LOT OF SEDUCED, MUTANTS SHOW UP TO BE WHISKEY AWAY..
SAVAGE LAND..
HOME
BACK IN SAN FRANCISCO, LORNA DANE'S MIND KEEPS SWIMMING WITH VISIONS OF THE SAVAGE LAND... OF MESMERO...
HOME...
WATCH OUT!
ICEMAN, BOBBY DRAKE'S REFLEXES MAINTAIN THEIR SHARPNESS...
YOU OKAY, GIRL.
MESMERO
SAVAGE LAND..
AAAH, WHATCHA DOING?!


LIKE A SUPERNOVA, LORNA DANE BURNT HERSELF OUT ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.
HANK! WE GOTTA HELP THIS GIRL, SHE'S A MUTANT ON THE FRITZ!
MY GOODNESS!
WEIGHING THEIR OPTIONS, HENRY MCCOY SEEKS A SECOND OPINION.
SCOTT, SHE MAY BE AN ALPHA-LEVEL MUTANT!
OH YEAH?
HEY!
ALL OF THE SUDDEN EVERYBODY BECOMES ASUNDANTLY AWARE OF LORNA DANE'S IMPORTANCE. TO WHO? THAT IS THE QUESTION.
HANK?
HANK!!
IT TAKES ABOUT 2 HRS FOR THE BLACKBIRD JET TO ARRIVE IN SAN FRANCISCO FROM NEW YORK. THIS IS PRECISELY THE AMOUNT OF TIME IT TAKES FOR HENRY MCCOY AND BOBBY DRAKE TO WAKE BACK UP...
SHE'S GONE! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
SHE'S AS STRONG AS MAGNETO!
GONE...
LORNA DANE'S LOCATION BURNS WITH INCANDESCENT CLARITY.

LORNA DANE IS THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL SUBJECT OF MAGNETO DREAM PROJECT. A MACHINE THAT ENHANCES LATENT MUTANT GENES INTO SUPER POWERS.
...DAUGHTER OF MAGNETO!
THE X-MEN STEALTHILY DISPATCHED THE RANK-AND-FILE OF THIS EVIL WORKSHOP...
...POLARIS! QUEEN OF THE MUTANTS!!
MESMERO DIDNT MEAN THIS METAPHORICALLY, HES SEE ALTERING DANE'S REALITY SINCE SAN FRANCISCO.
YOU WILL BE IN THE SAVAGE-LAND WITH YOUR FATHER SOON.
JEAN MENTALLY PROJECTS A FIGURE ~~DIRECTLY~~ FROM HER DREAMS TO DIRECTLY CONVINCE LORNA DANE OF THE MANIPULATION TAKING PLACE...
DEEP WITHIN YOUR SOUL YOU KNOW WHAT IS TRUE.
POLARIS?
WHAT IS HE DOING TO LORNA?
ICEMAN
SOMEHOW, JEAN GREY KNOWS EXACTLY WHATS BEING DONE.
JEANS GAMBIT IS SOUND.
MPHRHH!
I DIDNT KNOW YOU COULD DO THAT JEAN?
NEITHER DID I.
LORNA!


DAYS LATER, AN FEARFUL AND ANXIOUS SCOTT SUMMERS REVEALS THAT HE'S KEPT HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS YOUNGER BROTHER PRIVATE FROM THE GROUP...
HIS COLLEGE GRADUATION IS TODAY AND HE'S NOWHERE TO BE FOUND!
IS HE A MUTANT, SCOTT? WE CAN USE CEREBRO.
I--- I'M NOT SURE...
THERE'S A 50% CHANCE HE IS GIVEN YOUR GENETIC MAKE-UP, SCOTT.
ON IT!
KNOWLEDGE OF THE PHOENIX IS NOT THE MONOPOLY OF INTERGALACTIC BEINGS. ANCIENT EARTHLY CIVILIZATIONS FORETOLD OF HER IMMENSE POWER.
HORUS
THE EGYPTIONS BELIEVED THAT THE PHARAOHS COULD INFLUENCE THE PHOENIX FORCE.
DEEP WITHIN THE TEMPLE OF HORUS IN EDFU, EGYPT, THE LIVING PHARAOH IS PERFORMING A SACRIFICIAL RITUAL TO SEDUCE THE GREAT PHOENIX. BY EXPLOITING THE UNTAPPED MUTANT ENERGY OF ALEX SUMMERS, THE PHARAOH CALLS TO HER...


PROCEDURALLY DURING THE INCANTATION SOMETHING GOES WRONG.
THE LIVING PHARAOH'S DNA BEGINS TO DANCE THROUGHOUT HIS BODY...
...TRANSFORMING HIM INTO...
...A LIVING MONOLITH...
IT'S HARD TO TELL IF THE MONOLITH'S RAPID GROWTH DESTROYS A LOAD-BEARING PIECE OF TEMPLE...
...OR IF THE NUCLEAR REACTOR, THAT IS, ALEX SUMMERS, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CRUMBLING THE ANCIENT STRUCTURE.
A THE COMBINED OUTBURST OF THE PHARAOH AND SUMMERS ESTABLISHED THE PRIME SPOT FOR THE X-MEN TO BEGIN THEIR INVESTIGATION.
ALEX!
TEMPLE RUINS!
SCOTT, HE'S NOT MOVE...
NOT ANY MORE.


NOT ONLY DO THE XAVIER STUDENTS DEFY SHIELD ORDERS BY CONTINUING THEIR EXISTING WORK TOGETHER, BUT THEY ALSO ACQUIRE A NEW STUDENT IN LORNA DANE.
SHE'S TOO INEXPERIENCED IN USING HER MAGNETIC POWERS TO HELP THE X-MEN IN EGYPT. PART OF HER THINKS THIS IS MERELY AN ADMINISTED TEST. IT IS NOT.
IN EGYPT, THE X-MEN CALL TO THE MANSION. TO LET LORNA KNOW THEY'RE GOING TO BE A WHILE.
LORNA?!
ROOM SHAMBLES
BOBBY, WARREN. TAKE THE BLACKBIRD HOME AND REPORT BACK!
I CAN'T LEAVE HERE UNTIL I FIND MY BROTHER.
ALEX SUMMERS IS, IN FACT, QUITE ALIVE, THOUGH IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.
HE IS, HOWEVER, NOT ALONE.
UNKNOWN TARGET ACQUIRED
LARRY TRASK AND HIS AFFILIATES, THE RIGHT, HAVE PLANS ON USING MUTANTS TO POWER AND SUSTAIN A SMALL ISLAND RESORT THAT THEY JUST PURCHASED.
GOVERNMENT ACTORS WITHIN THE RIGHT RETROACTIVELY GENERATE THE NECESSARY PAPERWORK TO DEEM THEM CAPTIVES AS ENEMIES OF THE STATE.
WHAT IS ICEMAN AND WORTHINGTON DOING AT THAT MANSION?
NOT SURE, HODGE
THIS ISN'T GOOD

WHEN SEN~~TOR~~ KELLY ~~SEES THE REALITY OF THE~~ SITUATION HE UP TO THIS POINT, SENATOR KELLY HAS HAD A MOSTLY HANDS-OFF APPROACH.

TASK, ARE YOU SURE? THESE GUYS LOOK JUST LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE TO ME?

THEY'RE SCUM.

REGARDLESS, 100% OF THE MACH II SENTINEL FLEET IS DISPATCHED TO ACQUIRE NEW TARGETS

THANKS TO THE CONGESTION OF ALPHA-LEVEL MUTANTS, COLOSSO HELP DISCOVER THE INSECURE HEADQUARTERS WITH GREAT EASE.

...AND THEY'RE GOING TO POWER GENOSHA

PERHAPS IMPULSIVELY JEAN WANTS LARRY-TASK TO KNOW WHAT ALL HIS CAPTIVES HAVE GONE THROUGH AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER.

I... I'M MUTATING! NO! NO!

SHE ~~ISN'T FAST ENOUGH TO STOP LARRY'S OWN TRICKS~~ SHE DIDN'T EXPECT LARRY TO REACT TO MINDGAMES WITH ~~SUCH~~ INSTANT PERMANENCE

~~WHILE THIS~~ I MEAN WHILE BEAST AND CYCLOPS DISCOVER THE MASTER MOLD, THE MOTHERSLAIN OF THE SENTINEL ROBOTS.

BEAST UPLOADS A NEW SET OF DIRECTIVES THAT MAKES PERFECT LOGICAL SENSE IN COMPUTER LANGUAGE.

THE SENTINELS SHALL NOW REROUTE AND ~~ATTACK~~ DESTROY THE VERY CAUSE OF GENETIC MUTATION.

WITH ABRUPT UNIFORMITY, THE ENTIRE ~~OF~~ CONVOY OF SENTINELS MEET SOMEWHERE IN THE THERMOSPHERE AND ~~[illegible]~~ BEGIN THEIR COURSE, TO THE CENTER OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM.

CLASSIC SHOT OF SENTINELS FLYING INTO THE SUN

THE X-MEN DISCOVER THAT BEFORE THWARTING THE SENTINELS, THE ROBOTS WERE ON THEIR WAY TO THE SAVAGE LAND EN MASSE DUE TO A MASSIVE SPIKE IN MUTANT ACTIVITY.

ANGEL WAS SIMPLY ON A RECONNAISSANCE MISSION BEFORE BEING INTERCEPTED BY THE HYPNOTIC PTERANO-MAN, SAURON...

ANGEL'S MISTAKE WAS TO STARE INTO HIS ADVERSARIES EYES FOR TOO LONG.

THE TREES PROVIDED ENOUGH SHOCK ABSORSTION TO KEEP WORTHINGTON ~~[illegible]~~ THAT'S ABOUT IT...

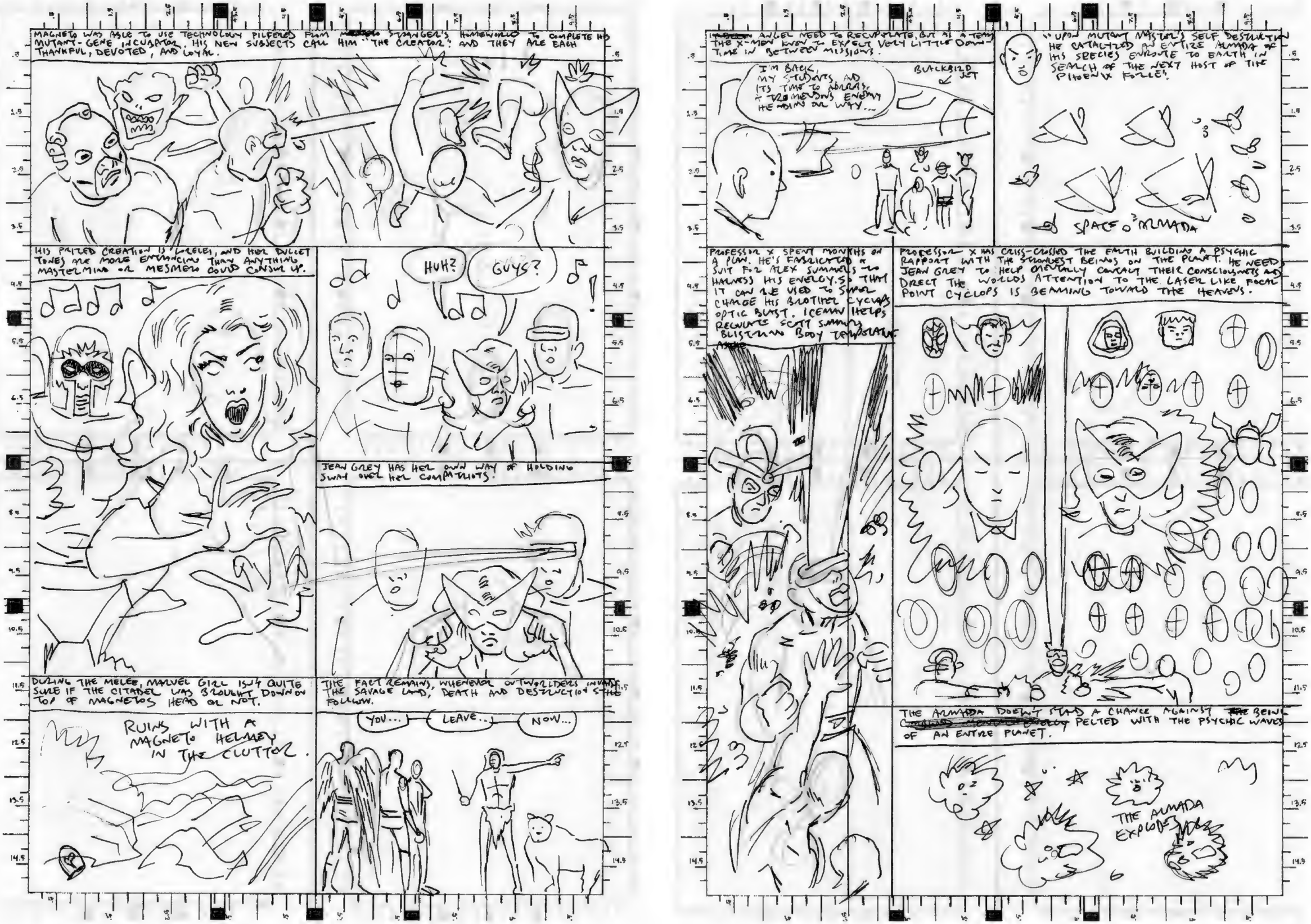
ANGELSSSSS FROM THE HEAVENZZZZ...

THE CREATOR CAN MAKE HIM ALIVE HE CAN DO ANYTHING...

ANGEL?!

SUIT UP, MY LOVELIES. INVADERS ARE GOING TO TRY AND HURT YOUR BELOVED CREATOR.

I'LL FIGHT THEM ALONGSIDE YOU, EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.


MAGNETO WAS ABLE TO USE TECHNOLOGY PILFERED FROM STRANGER'S HOMEWORLD TO COMPLETE HIS MUTANT-GENE INCUBATOR. HIS NEW SUBJECTS CALL HIM "THE CREATOR" AND THEY ARE EACH THANKFUL, DEVOTED, AND LOYAL.
HIS PRIZED CREATION IS LORELEI, AND HER DULCET TONES ARE MORE ENTRANCING THAN ANYTHING MASTERMIND OR MESMERO COULD CONJURE UP.
HUH?
GUYS?
JEAN GREY HAS HER OWN WAY OF HOLDING SWAY OVER HER COMPATRIOTS.
DURING THE MELEE, MARVEL GIRL ISN'T QUITE SURE IF THE CITADEL WAS BROUGHT DOWN ON TOP OF MAGNETOS HEAD OR NOT.
THE FACT REMAINS, WHENEVER OUTWORLDERS INVADE THE SAVAGE LAND, DEATH AND DESTRUCTION STILL FOLLOW.
RUINS WITH A MAGNETO HELMET IN THE CLUTTER.
YOU...
LEAVE...
NOW...
ANGEL NEED TO RECUPERATE, BUT AS A TEAM THE X-MEN KNOW TO EXPECT VERY LITTLE DOWN-TIME IN BETWEEN MISSIONS.
I'M BACK, MY STUDENTS, AND ITS TIME TO ADDRESS A TREMENDOUS ENEMY HE MOVING ON WITH...
BLACKBIRD JET
"UPON MUTANT MASTER'S SELF DESTRUCTION HE CATALYZED AN ENTIRE ARMADA OF HIS SPECIES ENROUTE TO EARTH IN SEARCH OF THE NEXT HOST OF THE PHOENIX FORCE!"
SPACE ARMADA
PROFESSOR X SPENT MONTHS ON A PLAN. HE'S FABRICATED A SUIT FOR ALEX SUMMERS TO HARNESS HIS ENERGY. SO THAT IT CAN BE USED TO SUPER CHARGE HIS BROTHER CYCLOPS OPTIC BLAST. ICEMAN HELPS RECRUITS SCOTT SUMMERS BLISTERING BODY TEMPERATURE.
PROFESSOR X HAS CRISS-CROSSED THE EARTH BUILDING A PSYCHIC RAPPORT WITH THE STRONGEST BEINGS ON THE PLANET. HE NEEDS JEAN GREY TO HELP MENTALLY CONTACT THEIR CONSCIOUSNESS AND DIRECT THE WORLDS ATTENTION TO THE LASER LIKE FOCAL POINT CYCLOPS IS BEAMING TOWARD THE HEAVENS.
THE ARMADA DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THE BEING PELTED WITH THE PSYCHIC WAVES OF AN ENTIRE PLANET.
THE ARMADA EXPLODES

THE STRAIN ZAPS ALL OF XAVIER'S ENERGY LEAVING HIM COMATOSE, SICK AND AMNESIC ON THE VERGE OF TOTAL MENTAL COLLAPSE.

HIS MIND STILL STUCK ON THE UNCONSCIOUS PLANE WITH INDECIPHERABLE VISIONS.

SOMETHING WITHIN JEAN PUSHES HER TO TRY AND RESCUE PROFESSOR X OUT OF HIS SLUMBER BY USING CEREBRO. IT WORKS.

PRO!

KRAKOA

KRAKOA!

PROFESSOR?

PULSE SLOW NORMAL.

YOU HAD US WORRIED.

KRAKOA?

KRAKOA.. BIG TROUBLE...

REST EASY, PROFESSOR.

~~TAKEN.~~

~~DON'T WORRY SIR WE'LL GET BACK TO THE MUTANT SCHOOL ASAP...~~

OH SCOTT

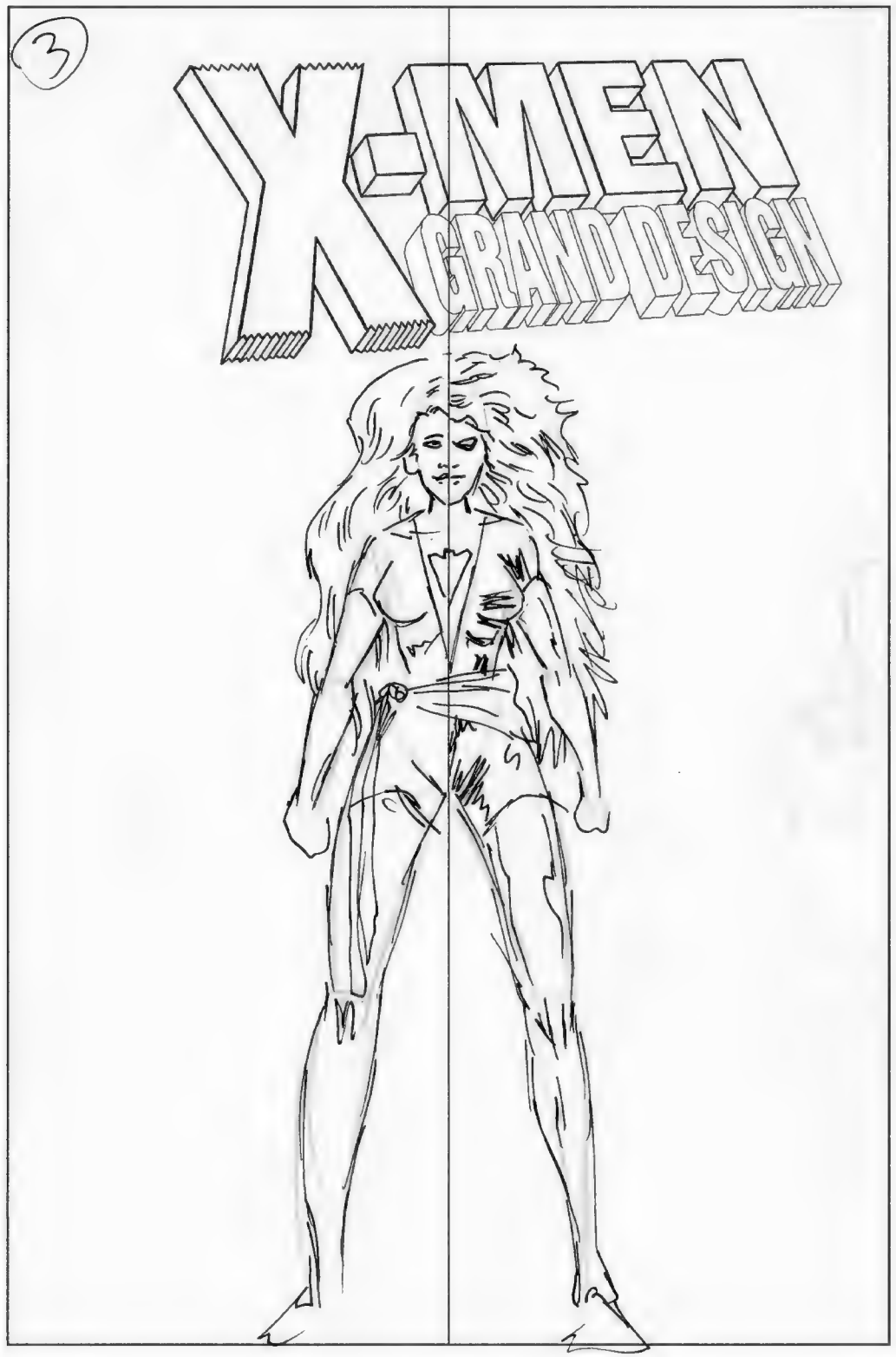
AND SO THEY FOUGHT HAPPILY EVER AFTER, WATCHER?

WELL, RECORDER, OF COURSE I HAVE MANY MORE OBSERVATIONS THAT REQUIRE TRANSCRIPTION...

AFTER ALL, THERE'S ALWAYS MORE TO THE STORY...

2

X-MEN GRAND DESIGN


3
X-MEN
GRAND DESIGN

FOR SOME REASON, CHARLES XAVIER AND HIS STUDENTS AT THE SCHOOL OF GIFTED YOUNGSTERS HAVEN'T BEEN ON CAMPUS IN WEEKS. AN OPPORTUNITY IS SEIZED.
ROGER, THAT BLACK KING...
... ALL OF THE COMMON AREAS ARE TAPPED.
YES SIR. DEPLOYING DANGER ROOM MONITORS.
CHECK. THE DATA LOGGER IS INSTALLED ON CERES 20.
AFTER 27 MONTHS OF DARKNESS, THE MOTION DETECTORS IN THE SPY EQUIPMENT ARE TRIGGERED INTO PROJECTING LUMINESCENT VISUALS DOZENS OF MILES AWAY.
NARROWCAST.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND? WHO ARE THESE GOONS?
THESE ARE THE MEN
EMMA FROST WHITE QUEEN
I'M SURE WE BUGGED THE CORRECT LOCATION. I'VE BEEN TIPPED ON
MASTERMIND, PROBATIONARY MEMBER.
THE BALD CHAP AND THE BLOKE WITH THE SUN-GLASSES ARE RECOGNIZABLE.
HALLE BERRY BLACK BISHOP
XAVIER AND CYCLOPS.
DONATO PLACE WHITE BISHOP
PATIENCE, MY BRETHREN. WE CAN RELAX AND GAIN AS MUCH INTELLIGENCE AS NECESSARY.
SEBASTIAN SHAW BLACK KING

THOSE MANY MONTHS AGO THE X-MEN WERE SEARCHING THE ISLAND OF KRAKOA TRYING TO LOCATE THE SOURCE OF THE MOST WIDESPREAD PIECE OF MUTANT ACTIVITY EVER DETECTED VIA CEREBRO.

THE TEAM WAS MEASURED AND CAREFULLY ON GUARD...

SCOTT!

...BUT THEY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HIT THEM

GOOD LORD!

...CHOKE...

CYCLOPS WOKE UP 35,000 FT IN THE SKY, WITHOUT HIS COMRADES, ON HIS WAY BACK HOME VIA AUTOPILOT.

PROFESSOR!

SCOTT?

XAVIER FOOLISHLY WASN'T FULLY PREPARED FOR ~~A~~ EMERGENCY LIKE ~~THIS~~. THIS

MOIRA. I FEAR IT'S TIME TO IMPLEMENT SECOND GENESIS.

COME TO MUIR ISLAND AND WE'LL START HUNTING!

BANSHEE IS THE FIRST RECRUIT ON THE DANGEROUS MISSION OF RESCUING THE X-MEN.

THANK YOU, SEAN. WHO ELSE LOOKS PROMISING, MOIRA?

GOOD THING YOU HAVE YOUR PASSPORT.

ORORO BROUGHT CROP-BEARING RAINS TO HER AFRICAN NEIGHBORS. THEY MADE HER A GOD.

I'M NOT SURE IF YOU'RE A GOD BUT YOU'RE CERTAINLY A MUTANT...

STORM

PETER, THE PROUD SOVIET, WAS THE TOUGHEST TO CONVINCE BECAUSE ~~HE WAS THE SOLE NON-MUTANT~~ HIS METALLIC FORM HELPS GREATLY ON THE FAMILY FARM.

YOU'LL MAKE THE WORLD SAFER FOR ILIYANA..

HA HA

COLOSSUS

MOVE COLOSSUS 2ND TO LAST

BAVARIAN CIRCUS GYMNAST KURT WAGNER WAS HARD TO PIN DOWN BECAUSE OF HIS ABILITY TO TELEPORT.

CAN I BRING MY SWORD?

NIGHT CRAWLER

CORPORAL JOHN PROUDSTAR HAS THE STRENGTH, SPEED, AND STAMINA TO DO WHATEVER HE WANTS.

YOU CALLIN' ME CHICKEN?

THUNDER BIRD

WOLVERINE IS THE PRIDE OF CANADA'S MILITARY, A NEARLY INDESTRUCTIBLE, CANTANKEROUS LITTLE MAN.

YOU CAN'T LEAVE, LOGAN.

WATCH ME, JIMMY...

TO ROUND THINGS OUT, THE JAPANESE SUNFIRE AGREES TO HELP ON THIS ON RESCUE MISSION ONLY. HE HAS A CRUSH ON JEAN GREY.

HMPRPH!

SOMETHING IS CLOAKING KRAKOAS LOCATION BUT XAVIER KNOWS IT'S A TRICK. ISLANDS DON'T JUST VANISH. THE NEW MUTANTS TAKE THIS TIME TO TRY AND COHERE AS A TEAM.

X-MEN DANGER ROOM BATTLE PANEL!

PUSHING CEREBRO TO IT'S LIMITS, CHARLES FEELS JEAN GREY WEEP FAINTLY. SHE WAS BEING USED TO HIDE THEIR COORDINATES BUT ~~[illegible]~~ SHE MOMENTARILY RESISTS. CYCLOPS AND HIS ROOKIES BATTLE THROUGH POISONOUS VENUS FLYTRAPS AND KILLER DAISEYS TO DISCOVER...

THE ORIGINAL TEAM ALL BEING DESICATED SUCKED DRY BY VINES OF KRAKOA

THERE WAS DEBATE ABOUT THE SAFETY OF CUTTING THE X-MEN DOWN. WOLVERINE DOES NOT MAKE ~~DECISIONS~~ DECISIONS BY COMMITTEE.

YOU FOOLS!

DON'T YOU SEE?

YOU WERE ALL USED AS BAIT.

THIS ISLAND WASN'T CRAWLING WITH MUTANTS. THIS ISLAND IS THE MUTANT.

KRAKOA IS CURSED WITH REQUIRING THE CONSUMPTION OF MUTANT ENERGY TO SURVIVE. THESE NEW X-MEN WOULD MAKE GREAT BREAKFAST.

KRAKOA FANTASTIC 4 1 HOMAGE PANEL

AN INSTINCTIVE RHYTHM BETWEEN ~~THE~~ ALL PARTIES ALLOWS THE ISLAND MONSTER TO BE CAST INTO ORBIT.

THE ORIGINAL TEAM IS SADLY SHAKEN AFTER BEING USED AS FOOD FOR SO LONG.

...WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO WITH THIRTEEN X-MEN?

BLACKBIRD JET

SUNFIRE

THE PHYSICALLY RECOVER JUST FINE, BUT THE POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS IMPEDES THEIR ABILITY ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE.

THIS IS... GOODBYE, PROFESSOR.

AWAY FROM PRYING EYES...

SCOTT, I KNOW IT WOULD BE WRONG TO ASK YOU TO LEAVE WITH ME...

PLEASE PROMISE NOT TO BE A STRANGER.

CHARLES XAVIER IS MISTAKEN IN THINKING HE'LL GET A GOOD NIGHT'S REST AFTER SUCH AN ORDEAL. A NEW ROUTINE, NIGHTMARE INCREASES IN INTENSITY.

INEVITABLY THE CLOSE CALLS AND NEAR MISSES RUN DRY. ~~THE~~ AN X-MAN HAS FALLEN.

SIR, WE ALL KNOW THE RISKS INVOLVED WHEN PUTTING ON OUR UNIFORMS.

FUNERAL GAME

XAVIER KNOWS HE RUSHED HIS NEW STUDENTS OUT TOO QUICKLY WHEN HE RECEIVED WORD THAT NORADS SECURITY WAS BREACHED BY THE ANI-MEN.

THE ANI-MEN POUNCE SOME MPS

THE THREAT OF THE COUNTRIES NUCLEAR ARSENAL BEING ~~HELD~~ COMPROMISED IS JUST TOO GREAT A THREAT.

X-MEN BATTLE ANI-MEN PANEL

ONCE INSIDE THE MISILESITE, THE X-MEN DISCOVER COUNT NEFARIA HAS PLANNED THIS CRIME FOR YEARS.

HE ALMOST ~~GOT~~ EVADED CAPTURE TOO IF NOT FOR THUNDERBIRD, WHO STALKED THE VILLAIN LIKE A MAN POSSESSED.

AAH! YOU MANIAC!

BANSHEE

THUNDER BIRD! STOP!

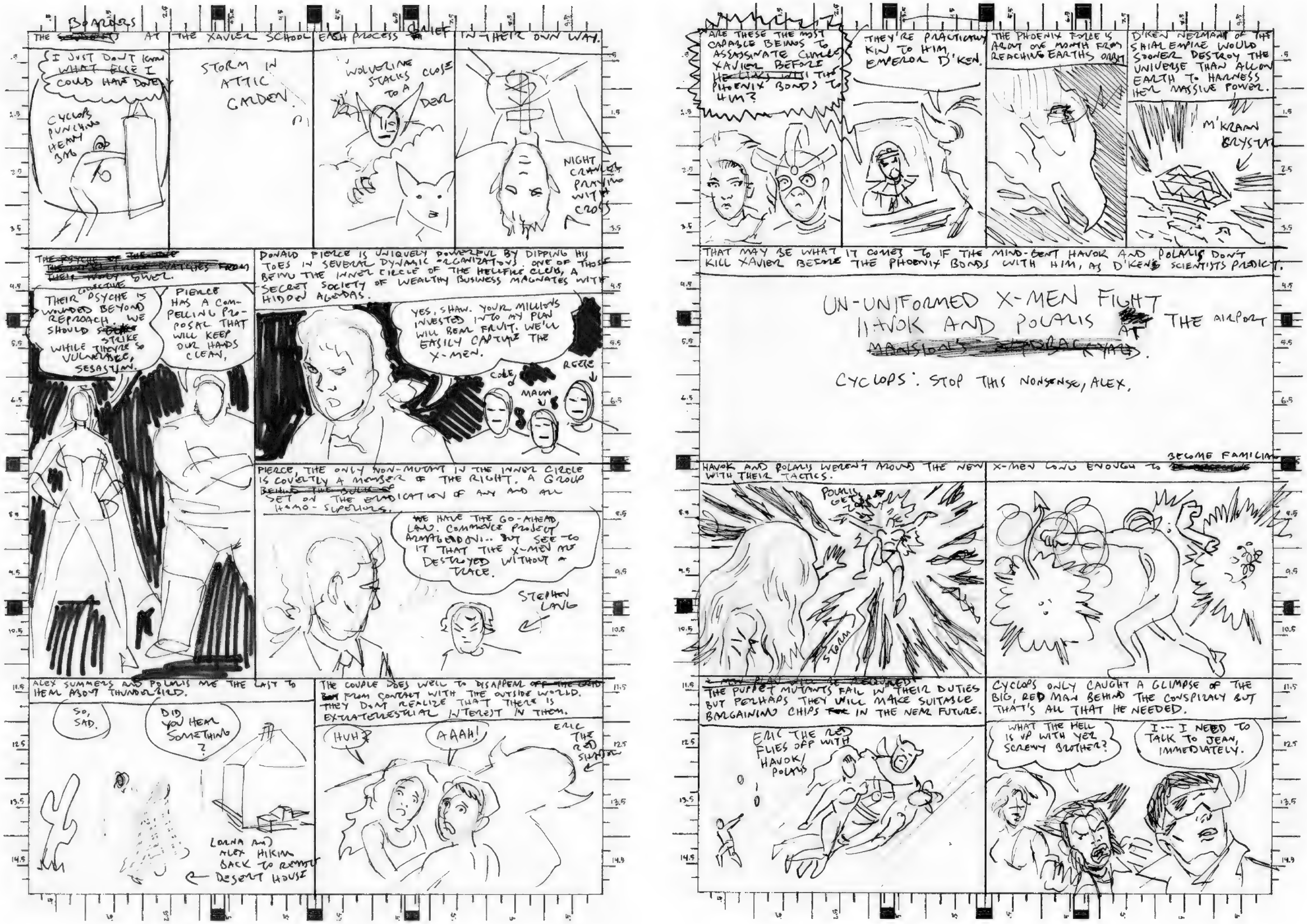
XAVIER FELT BOTH PARTIES BLINK OUT OF EXISTENCE THE MOMENT IT HAPPENED.

~~THUNDER BIRD. GET OFF NOW!~~

NO!

HIS NAME WAS CORPORAL JOHN PROUDSTAR. THUNDERBIRD. ~~HE~~ HE ~~COMMANDED~~ SERVED WITH SOME OF THE FALLEN NORAD SOLDIERS. HE DIED AN X-MAN.

LOOKING AT PHOTO OF JOHN PROUDSTAR


Boarders
THE AT THE XAVIER SCHOOL EASH PROCESS CONTINUES IN THEIR OWN WAY.
I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE I COULD HAVE DONE
CYCLOPS PUNCHING HEAVY BAG
STORM IN ATTIC GARDEN.
WOLVERINE STALKS CLOSE TO A DEER
NIGHT CRAWLER PRAYING WITH CROSS
THE PSYCHE OF THE CORE WAS WORN DOWN.
THEIR COLLECTIVE PSYCHE IS WOUNDED BEYOND REPROACH. WE SHOULD STRIKE WHILE THEY'RE SO VULNERABLE, SEBASTIAN.
PIERCE HAS A COMPELLING PROPOSAL THAT WILL KEEP OUR HANDS CLEAN,
DONALD PIERCE IS UNIQUELY POWERFUL BY DIPPING HIS TOES IN SEVERAL DYNAMIC ORGANIZATIONS. ONE OF THOSE BEING THE INNER CIRCLE OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB, A SECRET SOCIETY OF WEALTHY BUSINESS MAGNATES WITH HIDDEN AGENDAS.
YES, SHAW. YOUR MILLIONS INVESTED INTO MY PLAN WILL BEAR FRUIT. WE'LL EASILY CAPTURE THE X-MEN.
COBE
MAUN
REEVE
PIERCE, THE ONLY NON-MUTANT IN THE INNER CIRCLE IS COVERTLY A MEMBER OF THE RIGHT, A GROUP SET ON THE ERADICATION OF ANY AND ALL HOMO-SUPERIORS.
WE HAVE THE GO-AHEAD LANG. COMMENCE PROJECT ARMAGEDDON... BUT SEE TO IT THAT THE X-MEN ARE DESTROYED WITHOUT A TRACE.
STEPHEN LANG
ALEX SUMMERS AND POLARIS ARE THE LAST TO HEAR ABOUT THUNDERBIRD.
SO, SAD.
DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING?
LORNA AND ALEX HIKING BACK TO REMOTE DESERT HOUSE
THE COUPLE DOES WELL TO DISAPPEAR FROM CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD. THEY DON'T REALIZE THAT THERE IS EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTEREST IN THEM.
HUH?
AAAH!
ERIC THE RED SHIRT
ARE THESE THE MOST CAPABLE BEINGS TO ASSASSINATE CHARLES XAVIER BEFORE HE LINKS WITH THE PHOENIX BONDS TO HIM?
THEY'RE PRACTICALLY KIN TO HIM, EMPEROR D'KEN.
THE PHOENIX FORCE IS ABOUT ONE MONTH FROM REACHING EARTH'S ORBIT
D'KEN NERMAN OF THE SHIAR EMPIRE WOULD SOONER DESTROY THE UNIVERSE THAN ALLOW EARTH TO HARNESS HER MASSIVE POWER.
M'KRANN CRYSTAL
THAT MAY BE WHAT IT COMES TO IF THE MIND-BENT HAVOK AND POLARIS DON'T KILL XAVIER BEFORE THE PHOENIX BONDS WITH HIM, AS D'KEN'S SCIENTISTS PREDICT.
UN-UNIFORMED X-MEN FIGHT HAVOK AND POLARIS AT THE AIRPORT.
CYCLOPS: STOP THIS NONSENSE, ALEX.
HAVOK AND POLARIS WEREN'T AROUND THE NEW X-MEN LONG ENOUGH TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THEIR TACTICS.
POLARIS GETS
STORM
THE PUPPET MUTANTS FAIL IN THEIR DUTIES BUT PERHAPS THEY WILL MAKE SUITABLE BARGAINING CHIPS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
CYCLOPS ONLY CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF THE BIG, RED MAN BEHIND THE CONSPIRACY BUT THAT'S ALL THAT HE NEEDED.
ERIC THE RED FLIES OFF WITH HAVOK/POLARIS
WHAT THE HELL IS UP WITH YOUR SCREWY BROTHER?
I--- I NEED TO TALK TO JEAN, IMMEDIATELY.

YES, EVEN SUPERHEROES GET INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT, WHEN POSSIBLE.

...HUMBUG!

HAHA, OH, WOLVERINE, HA HA

I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE JOKE?

CAROLERS

THE TRIP INTO THE CITY DOES HAVE A MORE SPECIFIC PURPOSE, THOUGH.

ARE - ARE YOU SURE?

JEAN, WE FOUGHT AN ENEMY STRAIGHT FROM YOUR IMAGINATION. HE HAS MY BROTHER!!

SKATE RINK!

OF COURSE TROUBLE FOR THE X-MEN IS OFTEN AROUND THE CORNER AT A MOMENTS NOTICE.

JEAN GREY

BANSHEE

FLY OFF WITH WOLVERINE, JEAN GREY, & BANSHEE.

THE PLAN WAS FOR THE REMAINING, UNCAPTURED MUTANTS TO HEAD BACK AND TRY TO GET HOLD OF THE VACATIONING CHARLES XAVIER.

STILL NO AN ANSWER. CERBERO JUST ISN'T AS STRONG WITHOUT HIS MIND TO DIRECT IT'S FOCUS!

SOMETHING BREACHED THE PERIMETER!

SENTINELS?

NO... IT'S A MAN?!

7 MILLION DOLLARS OF THE MANSION'S SECURITY ORDINANCE IS POINTED AT THE LONE FIGURES HEAD WHEN NIGHTCRAWLER TELEPORTS IN FOR A CLOSER LOOK.

GONE

CHARLES IS GONE...

DR PETER CORBEAU, BILLIONAIRE INVENTOR/CEO OF STARCORE, THE WORLD'S FIRST COMMERCIAL SPACEFLIGHT ORGANIZATION.

XAVIER NEVER TOLD YOU ABOUT ME? I'M THE GUY WHO GOT NICK FURY OFF YOUR BACKS,

WHERE IS THE PROFESSOR? WHAT HAPPENED?

"I'M NOT SURE HOW MUCH HE LET YOU IN, BUT CHARLES HAS BEEN HAVING TROUBLE. HIS MIND... NIGHT TERRORS... HALLUCINATIONS...

AAAAAH!

LILANDRA GHOST

"I THOUGHT SOME LEISURE AT MY HAMPTONS PROPERTY WOULD DO HIM SOME GOOD. THE TROUT ARE THE SIZE OF NARWHALS OUT THERE."

FISHING BOAT ON LAKE...

"IT ALL HAPPENED IN SECONDS. I WAS IN THE CABIN GRABBING SOME REFRESHMENTS..."

SENTINEL PORS OUT OF WATER

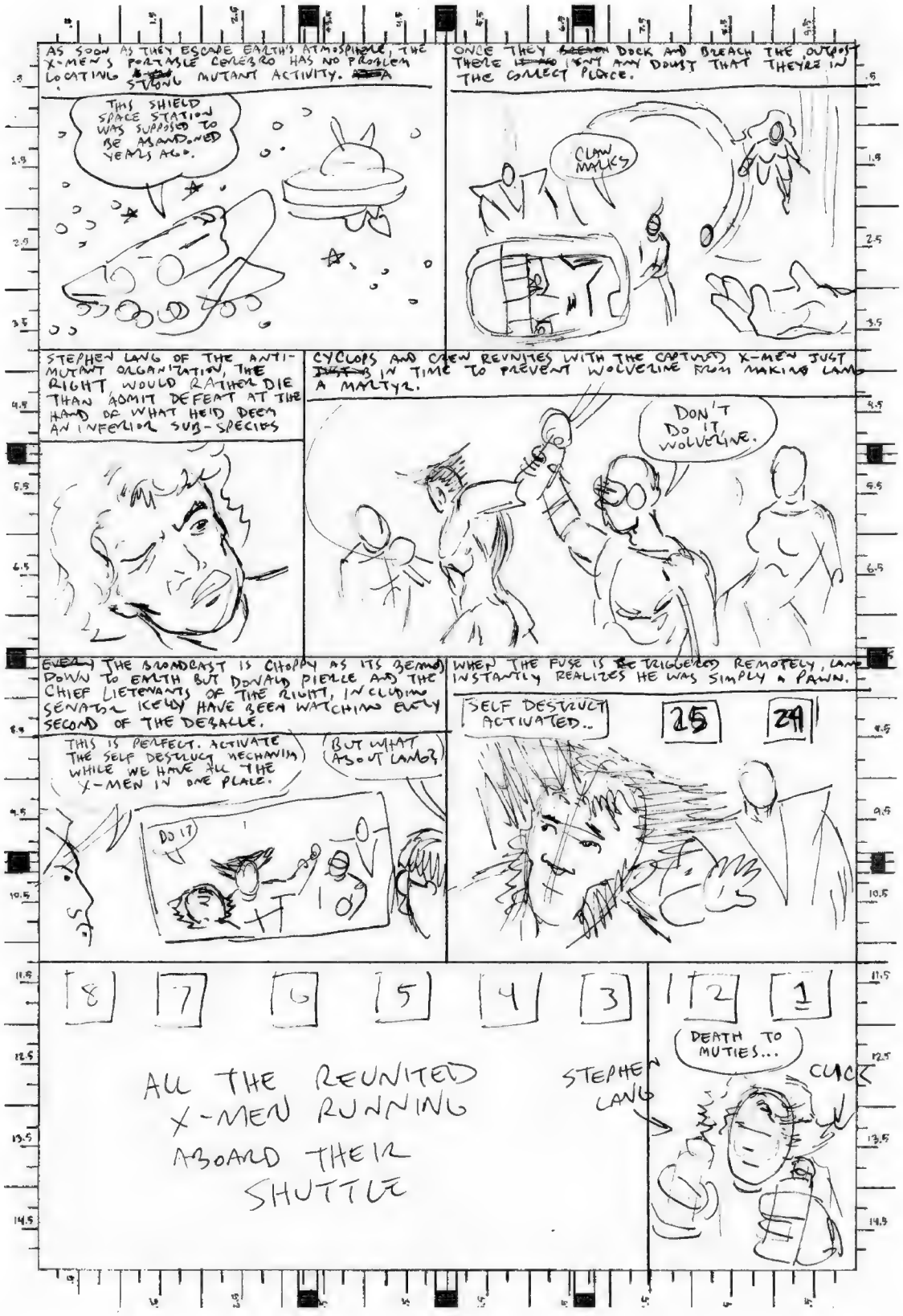
"CHARLES PUT UP A GOOD FIGHT BUT NONETHELESS..." "THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO IN THAT MOMENT..."

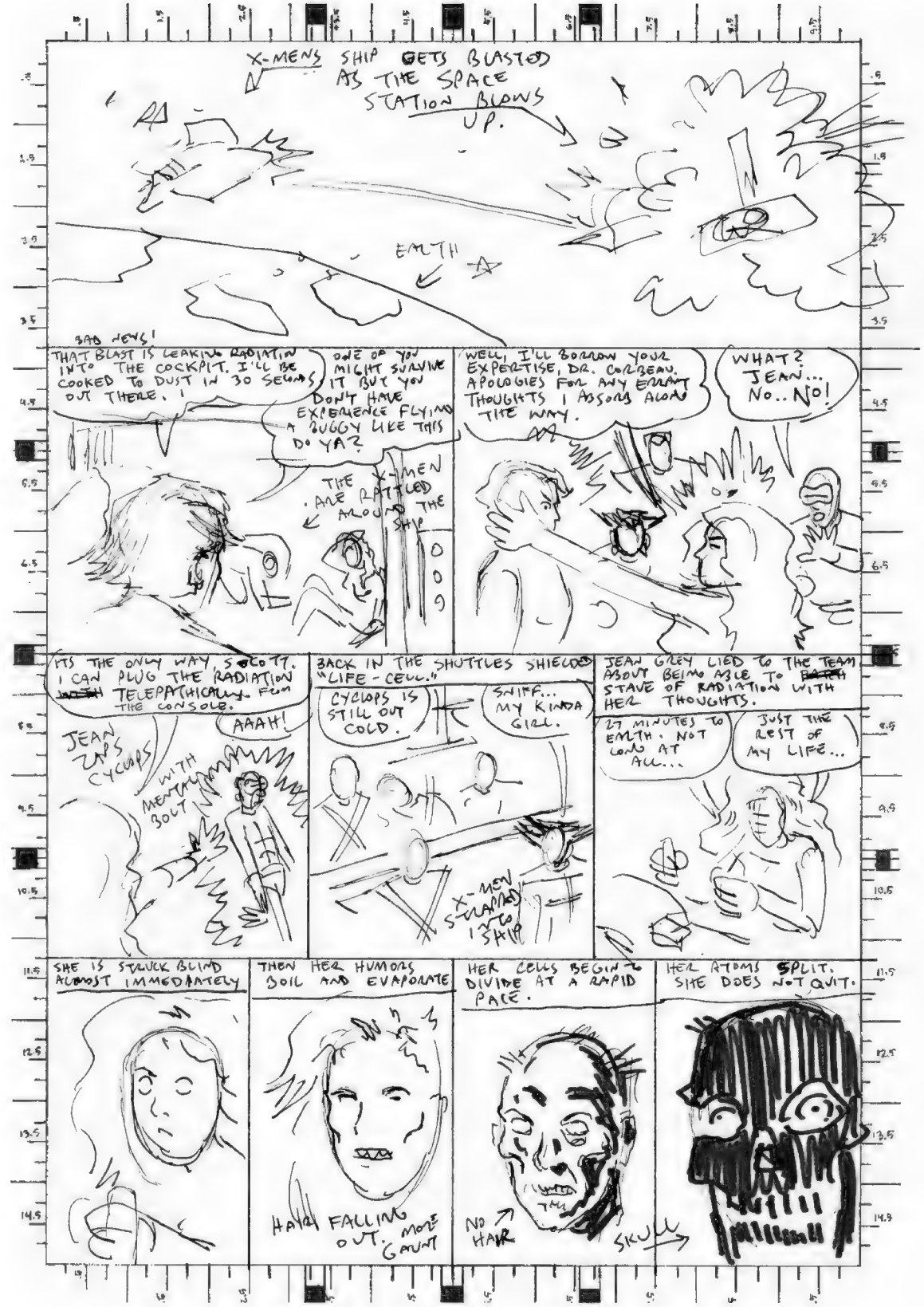
DRIFTWOOD

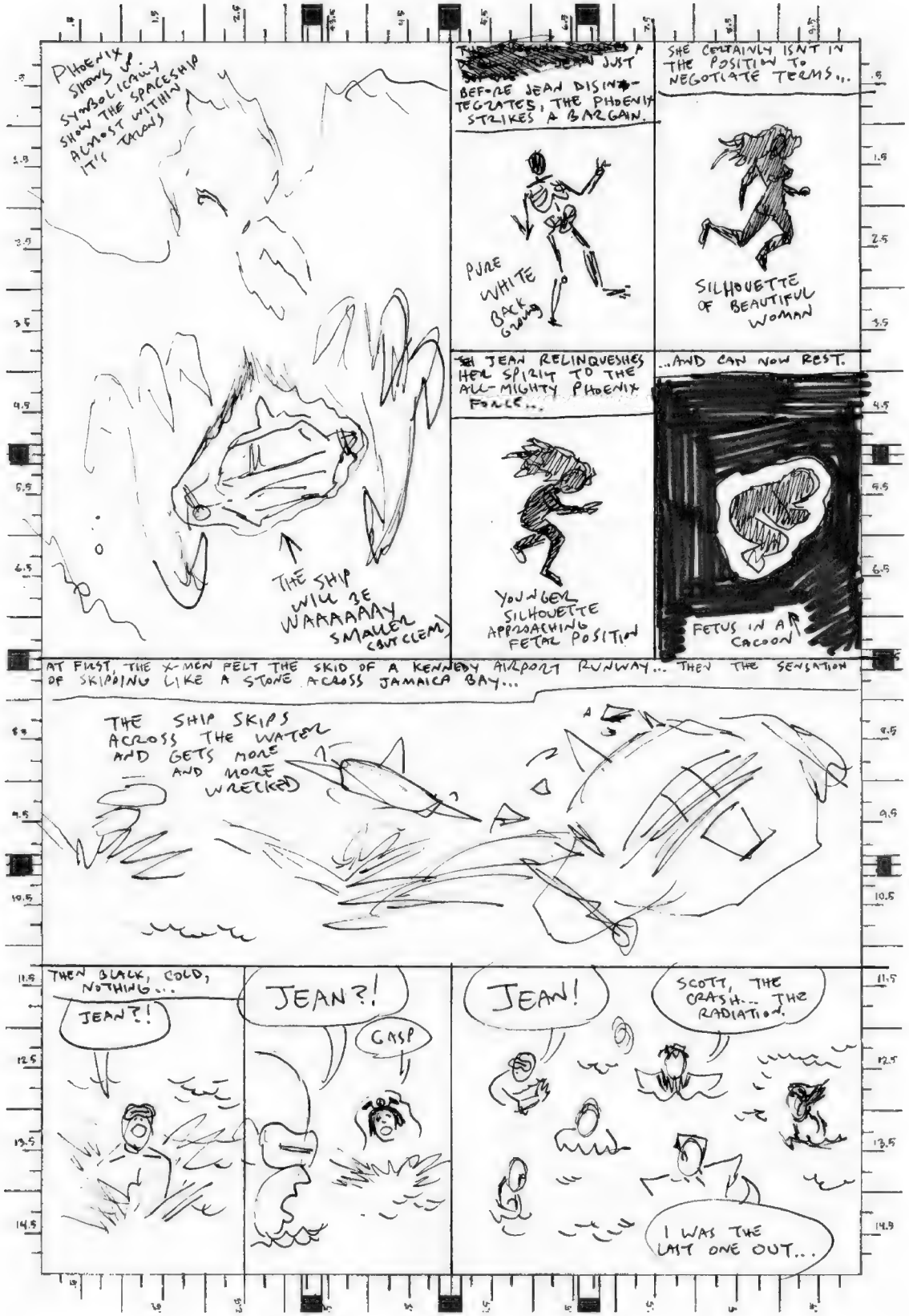
SENTINEL FLIES OFF

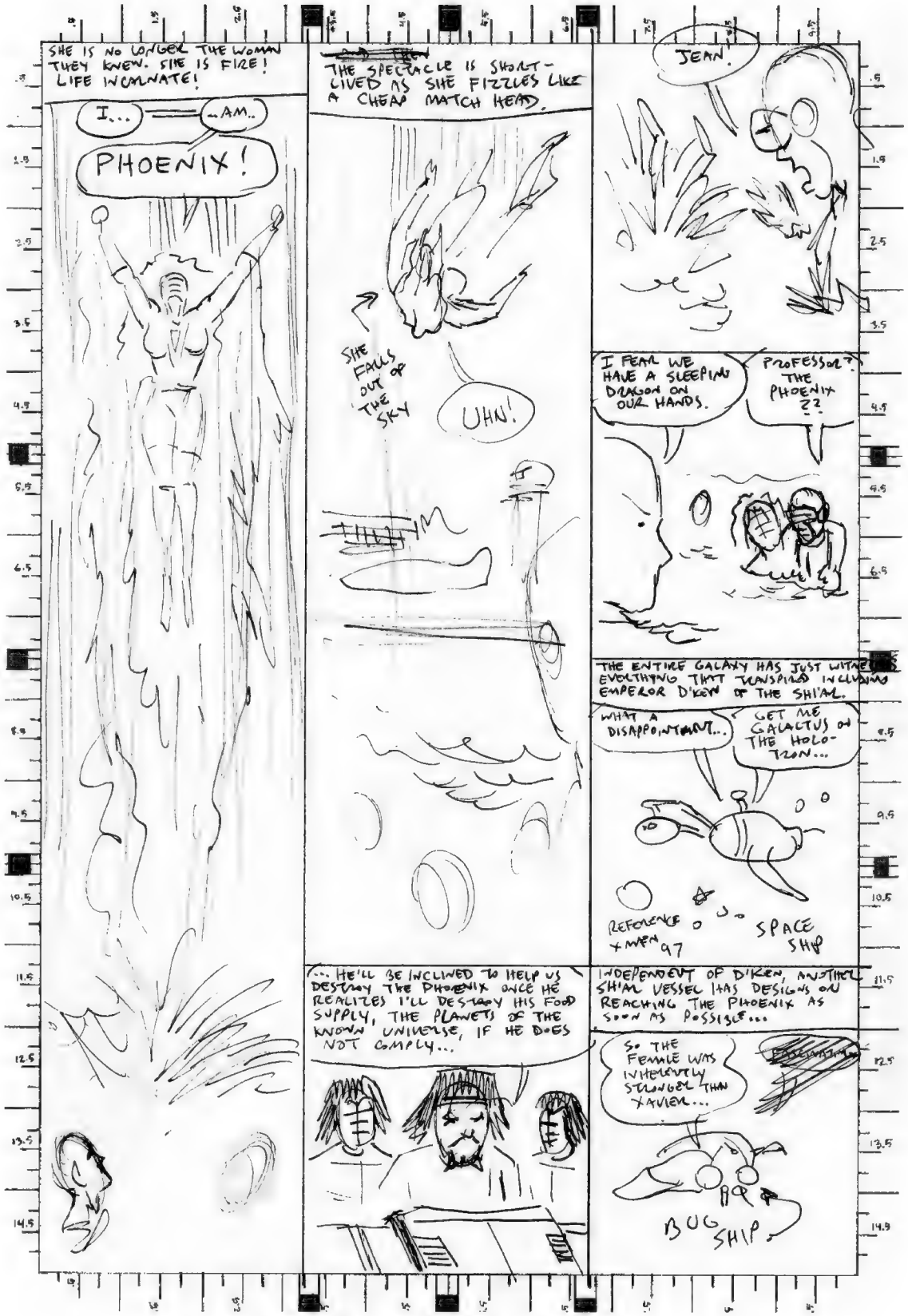
BUT I SAW THAT DAMN ROBOT CAST SOME KIND OF SOLAR SHIELD AS THEY FLEW OFF. THE ONLY REASON TO USE THEM ARE FOR TRAVEL INTO OUTER SPACE...

IT TAKES NO MORE PRODDING TO GET THE VIGILANT X-MEN ABOARD CORBEAU'S OWN PRIVATE SPACE SHUTTLE..


AS SOON AS THEY ESCAPE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE, THE X-MEN'S PORTABLE CEREBRO HAS NO PROBLEM LOCATING STRONG MUTANT ACTIVITY.
THIS SHIELD SPACE STATION WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ABANDONED YEARS AGO.
ONCE THEY DOCK AND BREACH THE OUTPOST THERE ISN'T ANY DOUBT THAT THEY'RE IN THE CORRECT PLACE.
CLAW MARKS
STEPHEN LANG OF THE ANTI-MUTANT ORGANIZATION, THE RIGHT WOULD RATHER DIE THAN ADMIT DEFEAT AT THE HAND OF WHAT HE'D DEEM AN INFERIOR SUB-SPECIES
CYCLOPS AND CREW REUNITES WITH THE CAPTURED X-MEN JUST IN TIME TO PREVENT WOLVERINE FROM MAKING LANG A MARTYR.
DON'T DO IT, WOLVERINE.
THE BROADCAST IS CHOPPY AS ITS BEAMED DOWN TO EARTH BUT DONALD PIERCE AND THE CHIEF LIETENANTS OF THE RIGHT, INCLUDING SENATOR KELLY HAVE BEEN WATCHING EVERY SECOND OF THE DEBACLE.
THIS IS PERFECT. ACTIVATE THE SELF DESTRUCT MECHANISM WHILE WE HAVE ALL THE X-MEN IN ONE PLACE.
BUT WHAT ABOUT LANG?
DO IT
WHEN THE FUSE IS TRIGGERED REMOTELY, LANG INSTANTLY REALIZES HE WAS SIMPLY A PAWN.
SELF DESTRUCT ACTIVATED..
25
24
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
DEATH TO MUTIES...
STEPHEN LANG
CLICK
ALL THE REUNITED X-MEN RUNNING ABOARD THEIR SHUTTLE


X-MENS SHIP GETS BLASTED AS THE SPACE STATION BLOWS UP.
EARTH
BAD NEWS! THAT BLAST IS LEAKING RADIATION INTO THE COCKPIT. I'LL BE COOKED TO DUST IN 30 SECONDS OUT THERE.
ONE OF YOU MIGHT SURVIVE IT BUT YOU DON'T HAVE EXPERIENCE FLYING A BUGGY LIKE THIS DO YA?
THE X-MEN ARE RATTLED AROUND THE SHIP
WELL, I'LL BORROW YOUR EXPERTISE, DR. CORBEAU. APOLOGIES FOR ANY ERRANT THOUGHTS I ABSORB ALONG THE WAY.
WHAT? JEAN... NO.. NO!
IT'S THE ONLY WAY, SCOTT. I CAN PLUG THE RADIATION TELEPATHICALLY FROM THE CONSOLE.
JEAN ZAPS CYCLOPS WITH MENTAL BOLT
AAAH!
BACK IN THE SHUTTLES SHIELDED "LIFE-CELL."
CYCLOPS IS STILL OUT COLD.
SNIFF... MY KINDA GIRL.
X-MEN STRAPPED TO SHIP
JEAN GREY LIED TO THE TEAM ABOUT BEING ABLE TO SHIELD STAVE OF RADIATION WITH HER THOUGHTS.
27 MINUTES TO EARTH. NOT LONG AT ALL...
JUST THE REST OF MY LIFE...
SHE IS STRUCK BLIND ALMOST IMMEDIATELY
THEN HER HUMORS BOIL AND EVAPORATE
HAIR FALLING OUT. MORE GAUNT
HER CELLS BEGIN TO DIVIDE AT A RAPID PACE.
NO HAIR
HER ATOMS SPLIT. SHE DOES NOT QUIT.
SKULL


PHOENIX SHOWS SYMBOLICALLY SHOWS THE SPACESHIP ALMOST WITHIN ITS GRASP
THE SHIP WILL BE WAAAAAAY SMALLER CONTCLEAR
BEFORE JEAN DISINTEGRATES, THE PHOENIX STRIKES A BARGAIN.
SHE CERTAINLY ISN'T IN THE POSITION TO NEGOTIATE TERMS...
PURE WHITE BACK GROUND
SILHOUETTE OF BEAUTIFUL WOMAN
JEAN RELINQUESHES HER SPIRIT TO THE ALL-MIGHTY PHOENIX FORCE...
...AND CAN NOW REST.
YOUNGER SILHOUETTE APPROACHING FETAL POSITION
FETUS IN A CACOON
AT FIRST, THE X-MEN FELT THE SKID OF A KENNEDY AIRPORT RUNWAY... THEN THE SENSATION OF SKIPPING LIKE A STONE ACROSS JAMAICA BAY...
THE SHIP SKIPS ACROSS THE WATER AND GETS MORE AND MORE WRECKED
THEN BLACK, COLD, NOTHING...
JEAN?!
JEAN?!
GASP
JEAN!
SCOTT, THE CRASH... THE RADIATION.
I WAS THE LAST ONE OUT...


SHE IS NO LONGER THE WOMAN THEY KNEW. SHE IS FIRE! LIFE INCARNATE!
I...
...AM..
PHOENIX!
THE SPECTACLE IS SHORT-LIVED AS SHE FIZZLES LIKE A CHEAP MATCH HEAD.
SHE FALLS OUT OF THE SKY
UHN!
JEAN!
I FEAR WE HAVE A SLEEPING DRAGON ON OUR HANDS.
PROFESSOR? THE PHOENIX ??
THE ENTIRE GALAXY HAS JUST WITNESSED EVERYTHING THAT TRANSPIRED INCLUDING EMPEROR D'KEN OF THE SHI'AR.
WHAT A DISAPPOINTMENT...
GET ME GALACTUS ON THE HOLO-TRON...
REFERENCE X-MEN 97
SPACE SHIP
...HE'LL BE INCLINED TO HELP US DESTROY THE PHOENIX ONCE HE REALIZES I'LL DESTROY HIS FOOD SUPPLY, THE PLANETS OF THE KNOWN UNIVERSE, IF HE DOES NOT COMPLY...
INDEPENDENT OF D'KEN, ANOTHER SHI'AR VESSEL HAS DESIGNS ON REACHING THE PHOENIX AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...
SO THE FEMALE WAS INHERENTLY STRONGER THAN XAVIER...
BUG SHIP

JEAN IS THE HEALTHIEST PATIENT TO EVER END UP IN THIS WARD BUT THE BAFFLED DOCTORS AREN'T SURE IF SHE'LL REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS IN DAYS, WEEKS, MONTHS, OR YEARS...

HOSPITAL

THE REST OF THE TEAM TAKES MANDATORY LEAVE, CHOOSING CASSIDY KEEP, BANSHEES FAMILY CASTLE IN IRELAND TO PROCESS ALL THAT'S GONE ON IN THE PAST WEEK.

UH DIINAE KNOW THOSE CLANS WERE PART OF YER BODY, LOGAN...

YA DIDN'T ASK, IRISH.

IT TURNS OUT BLACK TOM CASSIDY WANTED TO BECOME THE SOLE HEIR TO THE ESTATE BY SNUFFING OUT SEAN ~~CASS~~ BANSHEE (SEAN CASSIDY). ~~HE~~ HE WAS QUICKLY INCAPACITATED BY THE X-MEN.

WOULD YE BELIEVE I HAVE A TRUNK UP ME SLEEVE?

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST.... AGAIN.

THE X-MEN DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HIT THEM BEFORE GETTING BURIED UNDER LAYERS OF WOOD, STONE AND CONCRETE.

TOO BAD CHARLEY WASN'T HERE FOR ME TO SQUASH.

INSIDE CASTLE BUT WRECKED

X-MEN UNDER RUBBLE

STORM IS ON THE BOTTOM OF THE HEAP.

DEAD?

TIGHT. DARK... CONSTRICTED MOVEMENT.

NO...

NO

TRAPPED

OK

OK

GOTTA GET OUT

MUST GET OUT!

STORMS INTENSE CLAUSTROPHOBIA CREATES UNCONTROLLABLE ELEMENTAL CHAOS WHICH LEADS TO THE DOWNFALL OF BLACK TOM CASSIDY AND JUGGERNAUT.

ZAPPED OUT OF CASTLE

"D'KEN.. SHALL WE ENGAGE TRACTOR BEAMS ON THE ROGUE VESSEL?"

OF COURSE, DOLT!

ONCE THE STRAY SPACE CRUISER IS TOWED ABOARD THE ROYAL MOTHERSHIP, SHI'AR INFANTRYMEN SEARCH THE CRAFT HIGH AND LOW.

EMPEROR D'KEN. SHE ISN'T HERE, I'M AFRAID.

SLIPPERY WENCH.

I'M SAD I MISSED IT. MORE TEA ANYONE?

AAAH!

LILANDRA

PUF X

BACK ON EARTH PHOENIX IS CONSCIOUS AND MAINTAINING THE ACT OF RECUPERATION AMONGST JEAN GREY'S FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

SITTING IN SUBURBAN LIVING ROOM

Y'KNOW I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO VISIT IRELAND...

DON'T GET UP, JEAN!

GALACTUS HAS LENT D'KEN HIS HERALD, FIRELORD, TO THE SHIAR CAUSE.

PHOENIX MUST DIE!

IT WOULD BE NICE ~~TO~~ FOR D'KEN IF THIS CAME TO BE, BUT AT THIS LATE JUNCTURE, THE BATTLE TO DESTROY PHOENIX IS SIMPLY PROVIDING A SMOKESCREEN FOR THE TRUE MISSION.

X-MEN BATTLE FIRELORD!

LILANDRA!

D'KEN WANTS LILANDRA BACK TO GLOAT BEFORE HE ERASES ALL OF EXISTANCE.

ONCE LILANDRA IS CAPTURED, FIRELORD FLYS BACK TO HIS MASTERS SIDE.

IT'S CLOSING!

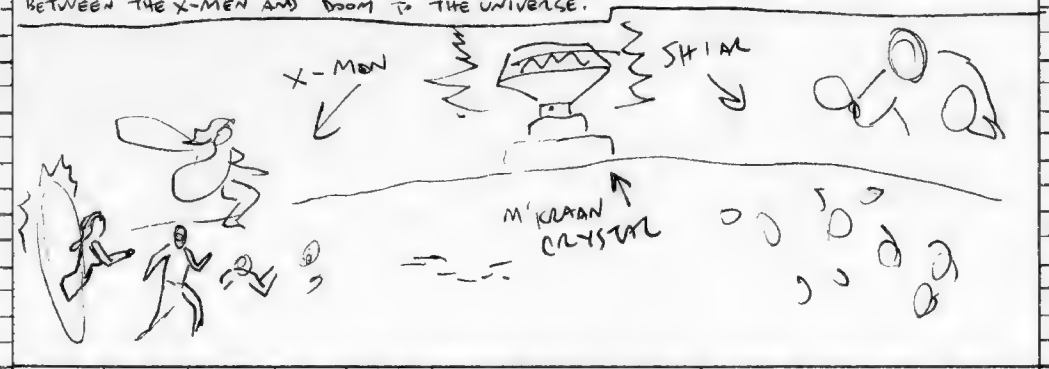
PHOENIX ~~KNOWS~~ THAT ONE OF THE ONLY REAL DANGERS TO HER BEING IS JUST BEYOND THE PORTAL ENTRANCE ~~AND SHE'D LIKE TO~~ BUT WITH HELP SHE CAN ADDRESS THE CONCERN.

GET IN! I CAN'T HOLD IT OPEN FOR LONG!

WHERE ARE WE?

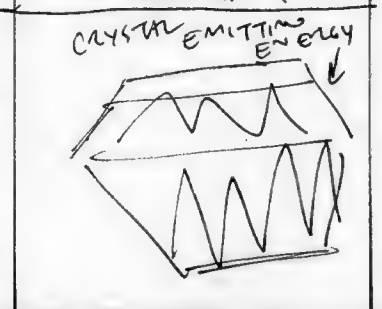
OUR COSTUMES? HOW?

THE STRONGEST WARRIORS IN THE ~~UNIVERSE~~ SHI'AR EMPIRE PROVIDE THE FRONTLINE PHALANX BETWEEN THE X-MEN AND DOOM TO THE UNIVERSE.



ENDING ALL OF CREATION IS D'KEN'S ONLY OPTION NOW THAT HE DOESN'T POSSESS DOMINION OVER ~~THE~~ THE PHOENIX.

THE M'KRAAN CRYSTAL IS THE ~~KEY TO~~ HEART OF THE UNIVERSE AND THE KEY TO ULTIMATE DESTRUCTION...

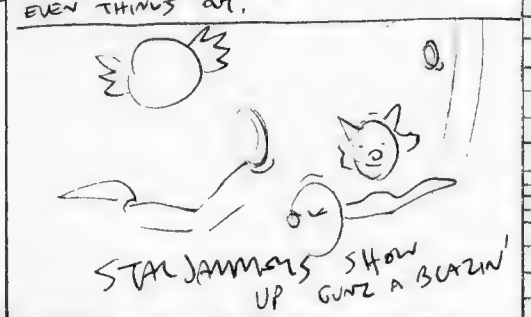


...AND THE STARS ARE NEARLY IN ALIGNMENT TO CREATE THE DETONATOR.

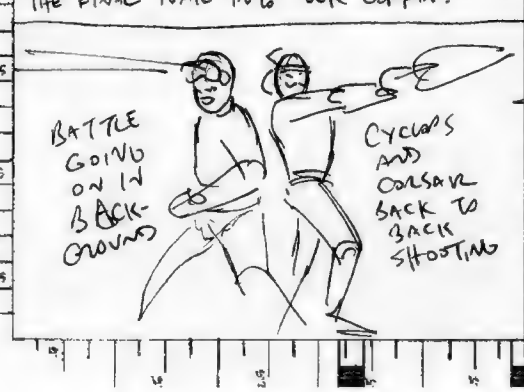
NOT ONLY ARE THE X-MEN OUTNUMBERED BUT THE DENSE GRAVITY MAKES IT NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO MOVE, LET ALONE FIGHT.

X-MEN GETTING BEAT UP BY SHI'AR

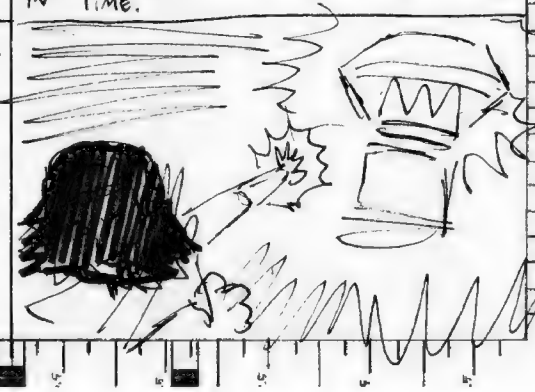
THANKFULLY, A BAND OF PIRATES, THE STARJAMMERS CAUGHT WIND OF D'KEN'S PLANS AND COME TO HELP THE X-MEN EVEN THINGS OUT.



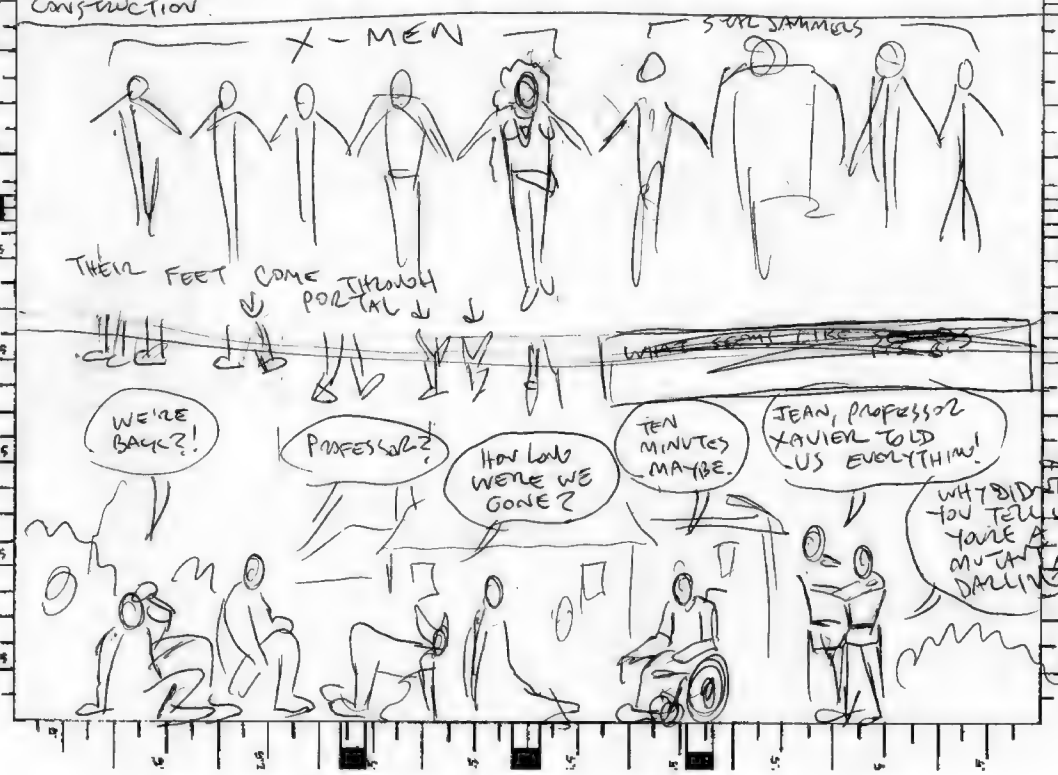
THE MORE TIME THE FIGHTING CONTINUES, THOUGH, THE CLOSER D'KEN IS TO DRIVING THE FINAL NAIL INTO OUR COFFIN.

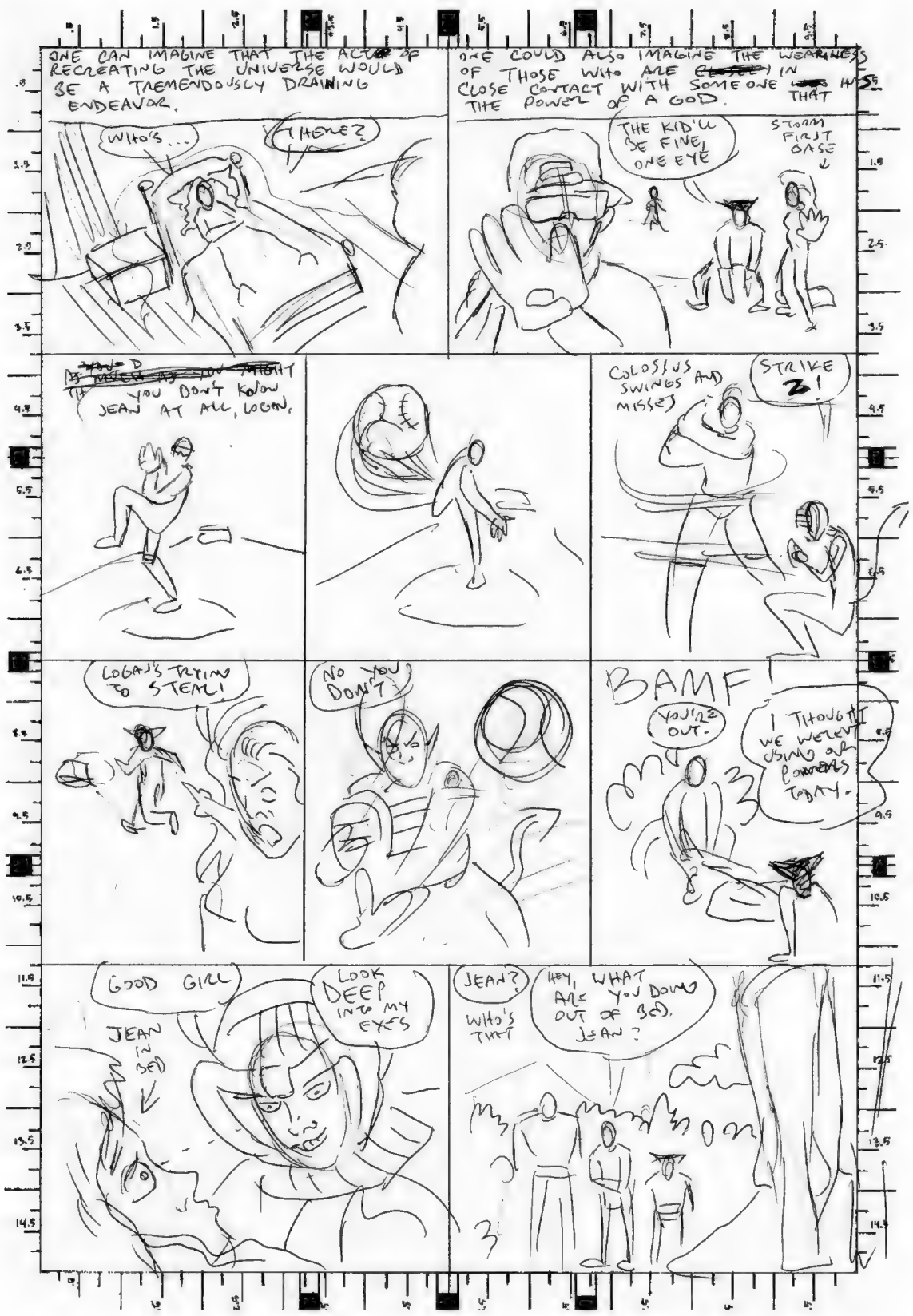


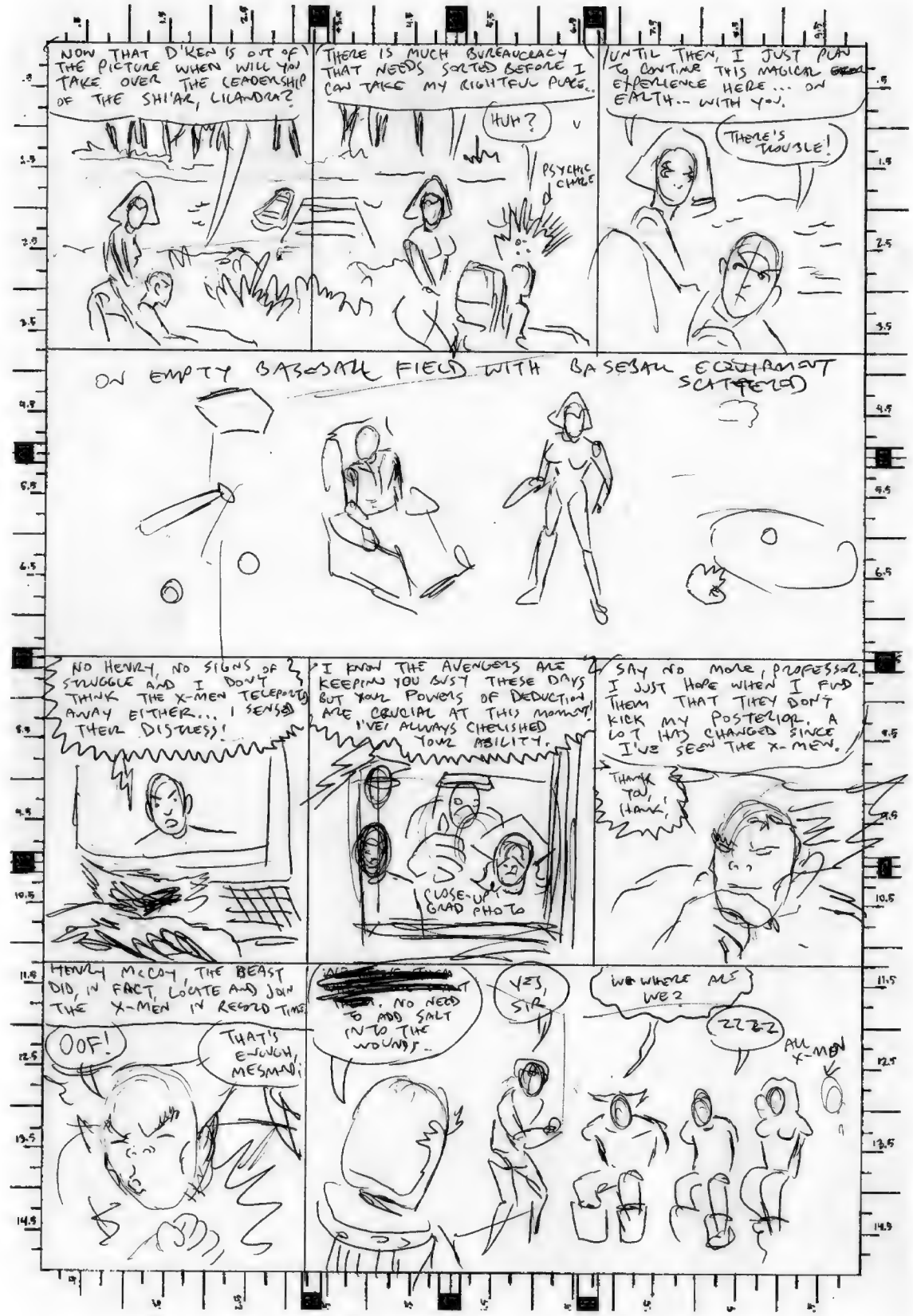
UNFORTUNATELY, EVEN THE ALL MIGHTY PHOENIX CAN'T REACH THE SHI'AR DESPOT IN TIME.



IT TAKES PHOENIX 7 BILLION YEARS TO ~~RECREATE~~ RECREATE THE UNIVERSE ATOM BY ATOM. THIS IS HALF THE TIME IT TOOK FOR IT'S INITIAL CONSTRUCTION.




ONE CAN IMAGINE THAT THE ACT OF RECREATING THE UNIVERSE WOULD BE A TREMENDOUSLY DRAINING ENDEAVOR.
WHO'S...
THERE?
ONE COULD ALSO IMAGINE THE WEARINESS OF THOSE WHO ARE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH SOMEONE THAT HAS THE POWER OF A GOD.
THE KID'LL BE FINE, ONE EYE
STORM FIRST BASE
YOU DON'T KNOW JEAN AT ALL, LOGAN.
COLOSSUS SWINGS AND MISSES
STRIKE 3!
LOGAN'S TRYING TO STEAL!
NO YOU DON'T
BAMF
YOU'RE OUT.
I THOUGHT WE WEREN'T USING OUR POWERS TODAY.
GOOD GIRL
JEAN IN BED
LOOK DEEP INTO MY EYES
JEAN?
WHO'S THAT
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT OF BED, JEAN?


NOW THAT D'KEN IS OUT OF THE PICTURE WHEN WILL YOU TAKE OVER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SHI'AR, LILANDRA?
THERE IS MUCH BUREAUCRACY THAT NEEDS SORTED BEFORE I CAN TAKE MY RIGHTFUL PLACE..
HUH?
PSYCHIC CHIME
UNTIL THEN, I JUST PLAN TO CONTINUE THIS MAGICAL EXPERIENCE HERE... ON EARTH.. WITH YOU.
THERE'S TROUBLE!
ON EMPTY BASEBALL FIELD WITH BASEBALL EQUIPMENT SCATTERED
NO HENRY, NO SIGNS OF STRUGGLE AND I DON'T THINK THE X-MEN TELEPORTED AWAY EITHER... I SENSED THEIR DISTRESS!
I KNOW THE AVENGERS ARE KEEPING YOU BUSY THESE DAYS BUT YOUR POWERS OF DEDUCTION ARE CRUCIAL AT THIS MOMENT! I'VE ALWAYS CHERISHED YOUR ABILITY.
CLOSE-UP GRAD PHOTO
SAY NO MORE, PROFESSOR. I JUST HOPE WHEN I FIND THEM THAT THEY DON'T KICK MY POSTERIOR. A LOT HAS CHANGED SINCE I'VE SEEN THE X-MEN.
THANK YOU, HANK.
HENRY McCOY, THE BEAST DID, IN FACT, LOCATE AND JOIN THE X-MEN IN RECORD TIME.
OOF!
THAT'S ENOUGH, MESMAN!
NO NEED TO ADD SALT INTO THE WOUNDS..
YES, SIR
WHERE ARE WE?
ZZZZ
ALL X-MEN

YOU'RE RIGHT WHERE I WANT YOU.

LOOK THROUGH FOR THE EVENING, MESMERO.

MESMERO

MAGNETO HAS NO EXPERIENCE WITH THESE NEW X-MEN. HE'S UNAWARE OF STORMS SKILL AT PICKING LOCKS.

ME NEXT, ORORO?

PHOENIX IS STILL SO VULNERABLE AND INCREDIBLY WEAK THAT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO WAKE HER UNTIL WOLVERINE GETS AN IDEA...

HEY!

WOLVIE SLAPS JEAN!

WHAP!

JEAN

HUH?

WHO HIT ME?

MESMERO

FLAME SHOOTS DOOR OFF HINGES

THE STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY OF THE FORTRESS IS COMPROMISED AFTER THE BATTLE WITH MAGNETO.

THE CEILING IS LEAKING?

LAVA!

GAAA!

THE HIDEOUT BUILT UNDERNEATH A VOLCANO COMES CRASHING DOWN WITH SEISMIC INTENSITY,

I'M SORRY SCOTT!

JEAN!

SCOTT!

THE HEAT... IT'S TO MUCH...

LOSING CONSCIOUSNESS

JEAN

BEAST

RUBBLE

LAVA

RUBBLE

LAVA

PHOENIX IS DETERMINED NOT TO LOSE ANY MORE FRIENDS ON THIS DAY.

BEAST HOPES TO RECIPROCATE...

EVERY BURST OF ENERGY SEEMS TO DRAIN HER NEAR COMATOSE.

FASCINATING!

SNOW

MASTERMIND, YOU DO KNOW THE VALUE OF MY TIME, CORRECT?

YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED, SHAW. COME LOOK WHAT OUR SPYWARE PICKED UP.

MASTERMIND REWINDS TO THE PART JUST AFTER THE AVENGERS QUINJET DROP BEAST AND PHOENIX OFF AT THE MANSION

THIS IS WHERE XAVIER RECEIVES THE NEWS ABOUT THE FATE OF THE OTHER X-MEN

"I'M GOING TO LEAVE EARTH WITH LILANDRA. THERE IS NOTHING FOR ME HERE ANYLONGER..."

"JEAN, I SUGGEST YOU GO TO MUIR ISLAND TO CONTINUE THE ANALYSIS ON YOUR NEW POWERS."

DID I JUST WITNESS THE DEATH OF THE X-MEN?

I THINK I CAN MAKE JEAN GREY OURS... LET ME EXPLAIN...

CONSIDERED WOULD HAVE LET XAVIER KNOW THAT THE OTHER X-MEN GOT SPIT OUT FROM THE VOLCANO INTO THE SAVAGE LAND.

FROM THERE THEY FOUND THEIR WAY TO JAPAN VIA A SHIP THAT WAS EXPLORING THE ANTARCTIC...

THE X-MEN DID CATCH A SNAG IN CANADA ON THE WAY HOME BECAUSE ALPHA FLIGHT WANTED WOLVERINE BACK IN CUSTODY.

MARIKO!

ALPHA FLIGHT

AS THE X-MEN TRAVERSE THE GLOBE ON THEIR WAY BACK HOME, LILANDRA'S CORONATION AS MAGESTRIX OF THE SHI'AR HAS COME AND SHE'S CONSUMED BY GOVERNING HER EMPIRE...

CROWN

...AND CHARLES IS LEARNING THAT HUMANS ARE THE LOWEST RUNG ON THE INTER-GALACTIC PECKING ORDER.

WHICH WAY TO THE GRAND LIBRARY?

I DIDN'T KNOW MEAT-BAGS COULD READ.

MUIR ISLAND RESEARCH FACILITY, THE HERMIT-KINGDOM OF MOIRA MACTAGGERT.

CONCENTRATE YOUR ENERGY WHENEVER YE'RE READY, JEANNIE.

MULTIPLE MAN

JAMIE MADROX, THE MULTIPLEMAN COULD HAVE BEEN AN AVENGER BUT HE CHOSE TO STAY AND HELP MOIRA.

OFF THE CHARTS!

HE WAS ONCE A PATIENT HERE

AAAGH!

JAMIE? WHAT'S WRONG?

ONE OF ...

MY CLONE MULTIPLES ...

"HE JUST GOT VIOLENTLY MURDERED... AND I FELT EVERY BIT OF IT...

MY GOD!

JEAN'S ENERGY BURST SHORT CIRCUITED THE WORLD'S SECURITY, MUTANT X-E HAS ESCAPED!

DEEP IN THE SHIAR LIBRARY, CHARLES DISCOVERS MY OBSERVATIONS REGARDING WHAT PHOENIX ACCOMPLISHED INSIDE THE M'KRAN CRYSTAL.

IF THIS IS TRUE...

JEAN GREY IS GOD!

BEAST IS TYING UP SOME LOOSE ENDS AT THE X-MANSION WHEN HE RECEIVES AN SOS FROM MOIRA MACTAGGERT.

HE'S KILLED FOUR ALREADY, HANK. WE'RE CRIPPLED HERE.

I'LL SUMMON THE AVENGERS TO ASSIST AS WELL.

NO NEED FOR THE NAVY WHEN YOU HAVE US PIRATES.

X-MEN SHADOWS

SCOTT! I THOUGHT YOU WERE...

I'LL FILL YOU IN WHEN WE'RE IN THE SKY!

THE BLACKBIRD IS FUELED UP!

PHOENIX NEUTRALIZES THE PROBLEM BEFORE THE X-MEN MAKE IT TO MUIR ISLAND.

I'M SORRY, MOIRA. HE... HE WAS... YOUR SON?

SOB: DID YOU HAVE TO INVADE HIS BRAIN BEFORE KILLING HIM?

NICE WORK, RED!

PHOENIX DOESN'T QUITE RECOGNIZE HER TEAMMATES AT FIRST.

MAKE HER LOOK LIKE BLACK QUEEN

I TOOK NO PLEASURE IN THIS...

COLONIAL OUTFITS

BACK TO PHOENIX

LET'S GO HOME JEAN.

WE HAVE A LOT TO CATCH UP ON

CAFE
SO THERE'S NO WORD ON PROFESSOR X? NO TELLING IF HE'LL EVER COME BACK TO EARTH?
HE THOUGHT HE LOST YOU AND WAS DEVASTATED SO WAS I.
SCOTT
JEAN
I NEED ANOTHER CUP. BE RIGHT BACK.
JEAN? IS IT?
IT IS! FANCY SEEING YOU AGAIN!
JASON!
I CONFESS I'M IN A HURRY BUT PERHAPS OUR THIRD MEETING WILL BE THE CHARM...
KISS
WHO...
I BUMPED INTO HIM ON MUIR ISLAND. HIS NAME IS JASON WYNGARDE AND I'M NOT SURE HOW I KNOW IT?
CEREBRO AUTOMATICALLY PINGS TWO NEW ALPHA-LEVEL MUTANTS MATCHING OR EXCEEDING THE POWERS AND ABILITIES OF THE X-MEN.
THE INNER CIRCLE OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB SYPHON THIS INFORMATION FROM THEIR MALWARE, TROJAN HORSES.
ONE IS RARE. TWO AT THE SAME TIME IS A SINGULAR EVENT.
THINK THEY'RE GOOD GUYS OR BAD GUYS?
UNPOLISHED GEMS! WE CAN PROBABLY OBTAIN AND MONETIZE THEIR DNA EASIER THAN THE X-MEN.
SPARE NO EXPENSE IN MAKING SURE WE GET TO THEM FIRST!

EMMA FROST, THE WHITE QUEEN DOES MAKE THE FIRST MOVE, HEADING TO CHICAGO AND POSING AS A SCHOOL TEACHER.
MRS. PRYDE, CATHERINE WOULD BE A SHINING STAR AT MY INSTITUTION.
WE'LL THINK THINGS OVER. THANK YOU.
WHEN SHE LEAVES, THE MISTRESS OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB IS DELIVERED A JOLT OF URGENCY TO ENSNARE THE YOUNG MUTANT...
THAT'S THE ADDRESS!
STORM
THE X-MEN!
KITTY PRYDE LIKES WHAT THE XAVIER SCHOOL HAS TO OFFER MORE THAN THE COMPETITION.
SHHH...
COOL!
STORM SHOWING OFF POWERS
MR. AND MRS. PRYDE ALLOW THEIR TEENAGE DAUGHTER TO GET A SNACK WITH THE ADMINISTRATORS BEFORE SAYING GOODBYES.
YOUR ACCENT IS NIFTY.
HA. KATYA, YOU WILL LEARN THAT MUTANTS ARE ALL OVER.
THE WHITE QUEEN NEVER GIVES UP WITHOUT A FIGHT.
ON MY MARKS
BAD GUYS
WHITE QUEEN ZAPS THE X-MEN
GET BACK HERE GIRL!
KITTY HAS THE ABILITY TO PASS THROUGH OBJECTS LIKE A GHOST.
ALLEYWAY
OOF!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME HER "PHASING" ABILITY CAME IN HANDY. IT WON'T BE THE LAST.
WE DON'T NEED THE KID NOW.
X-MEN GETTING KIDNAPPED
JUST AS THE KIDNAPPERS PULL AWAY...
HOW CAN I HELP?
KITTY!
KITTY PHASES INTO BACK OF TRUCK

A MANHATTAN NIGHTSPOT AT ~~NEARLY~~ AROUND THE SAME TIME AS THE EVENTS IN CHICAGO.

JEAN, CAN YOU PINPOINT THE MUTANT?

~~SOUND~~ SOUND!

BUSY DANCE CLUB

THE VOLUME MAKES IT HARD FOR PHOENIX.

THE STAGE.

ALISON BLAIRE DOESN'T SEEM ABOVE AVERAGE TO SCOTT SUMMERS, ~~HES JUST~~ SHE DOES COMMAND A CROWD WITH THAT VOICE OF HERS, HE ADMITS.

DAZZLER ~~ROCKING~~ THE CROWD

THEN SHE TURNS HER VOICE INTO ~~BEA~~ WILD BEAMS OF LIGHT AND CYCLOPS SEES HOW SHE'S EARNED HER STAGE NAME, DAZZLER.

THE PERFORMANCE LEFT EVERYONE IN A DAZE EXCEPT FOR SUMMERS THANKS TO HIS RUBY-QUARTZ SUNGLASSES.

... WE CAN OFFER YOU A CHANCE TO HARNESS YOUR MUTANT ABILITY FOR THE GOOD OF HUMANITY.

NO THANKS, JACK. I'M A ROCK STAR.

IT WON'T BE THE LAST FEELING OF REJECTION CYCLOPS WILL EXPERIENCE THIS EVENING...

WYNGARDE!?

JEAN

SCOTT SUMMERS QUERIES...

JEAN... WHAT'S GOTTEN IN TO YOU?

MOMENTS AGO, NIGHTCRAWLER ENDED AN EMERGENCY TRANSMISSION WITH A VERY DISTRAUGHT KITTY PRIDE.

SCOTT! WHERE'S JEAN? WE MUST GO!

THE X-MEN HAVE BEEN CAPTURED.

CELEBRO GUIDES SCOTT AND ~~JEAN~~ PHOENIX TO THE LOCATION OF THEIR KIDNAPPED COMRADES. FROST ENTERPRISES IS THE OWNER OF THE COMPLEX.

A COMPLEX OF FACTORYS AND WAREHOUSES

ONCE INSIDE, THEY RELY ON ~~PHOENIX~~ THE PSYCHIC ABILITIES OF PHOENIX TO HANDLE THIS PART OF THE RESCUE, BUT FIRST, A DETOUR.

OVER HERE, SCOTT

COME ON OUT, LITTLE ONE.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP.

ONCE KITTY FINISHES HYPERVENTILATING...

I WAS ONLY ABLE TO FREE THE LITTLE GUY WITH THE CLAWS BEFORE I HAD TO RUN AND HIDE...

WOLVERINE... OH NO!

ONCE KITTY IS SECURED BACK IN HER HIDING PLACE THEY PROCEED, FOLLOWING A TRAIL OF BLOOD.

HELP...

BLOOD EVERY WHERE!!

JESUS!

A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES FLASH WITHIN THE DYING ~~[illegible]~~ MAN'S BRAIN...

...PHOENIX JUST PARSES THE RELEVENT STUFF...

THE HELL FIRE CLUB?

SCOTT.. ~~[illegible]~~ THIS ~~[illegible]~~ GUY

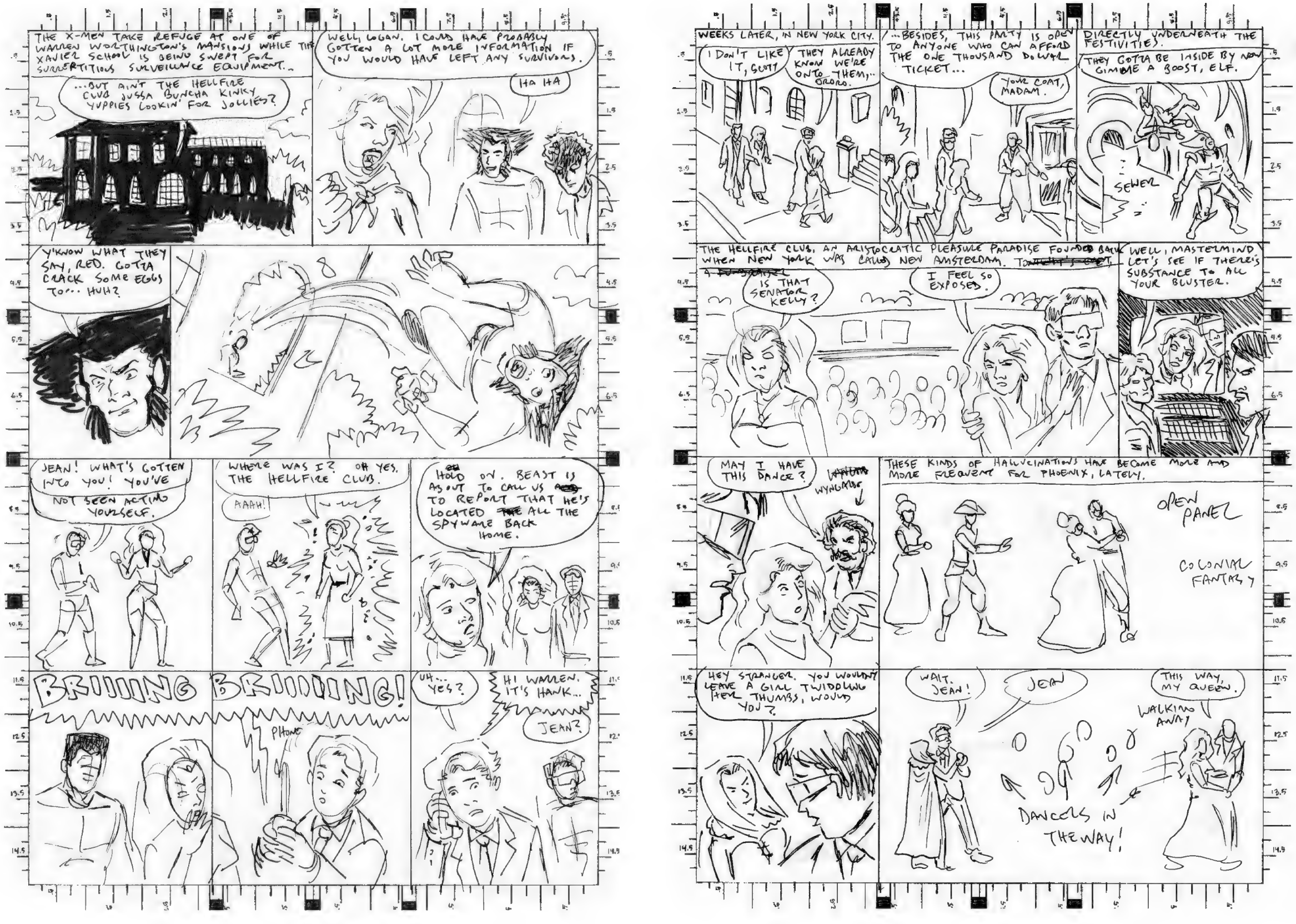
~~[illegible]~~ BUGGED THE MANSION!

COLOSSUS

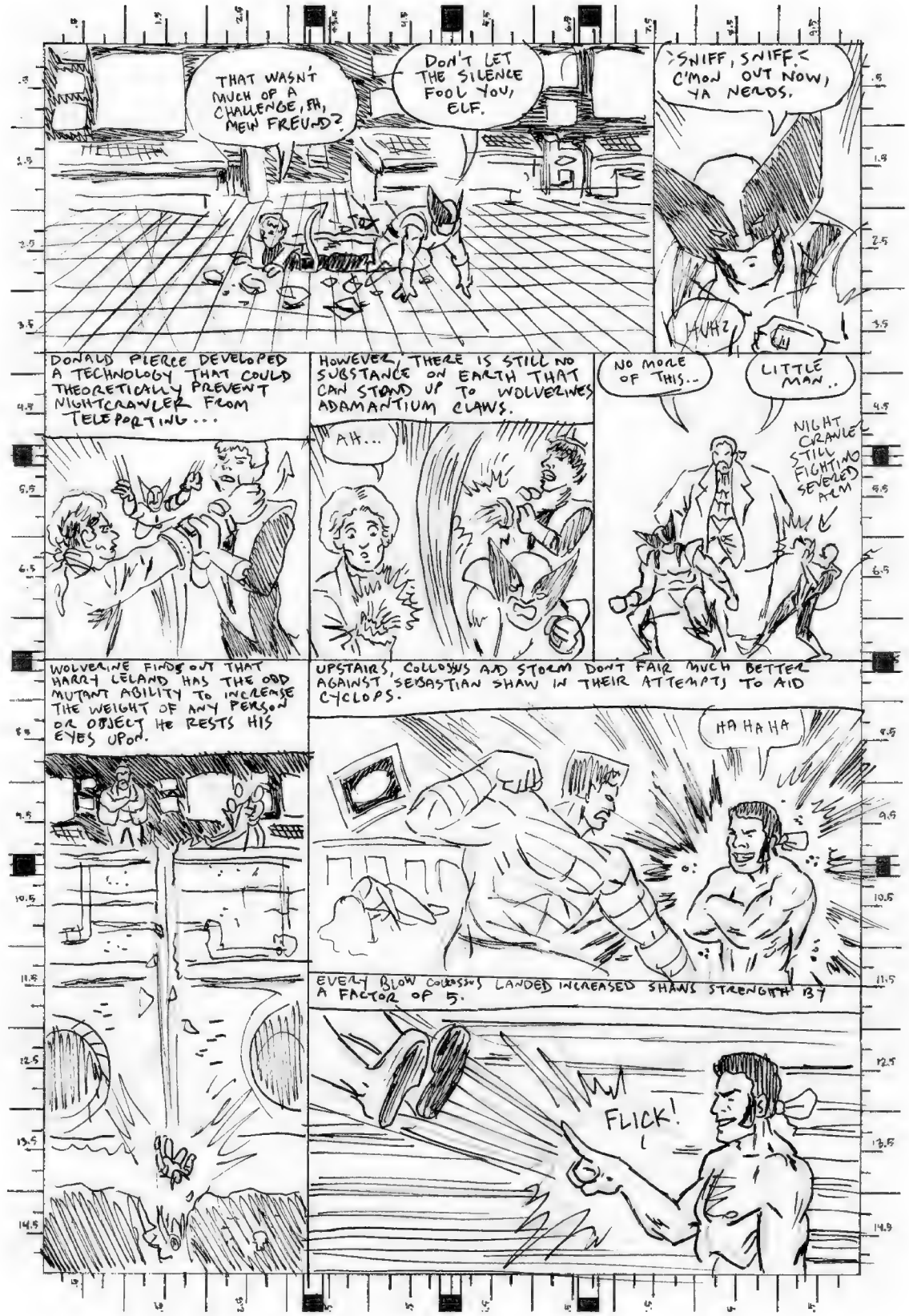
STORM

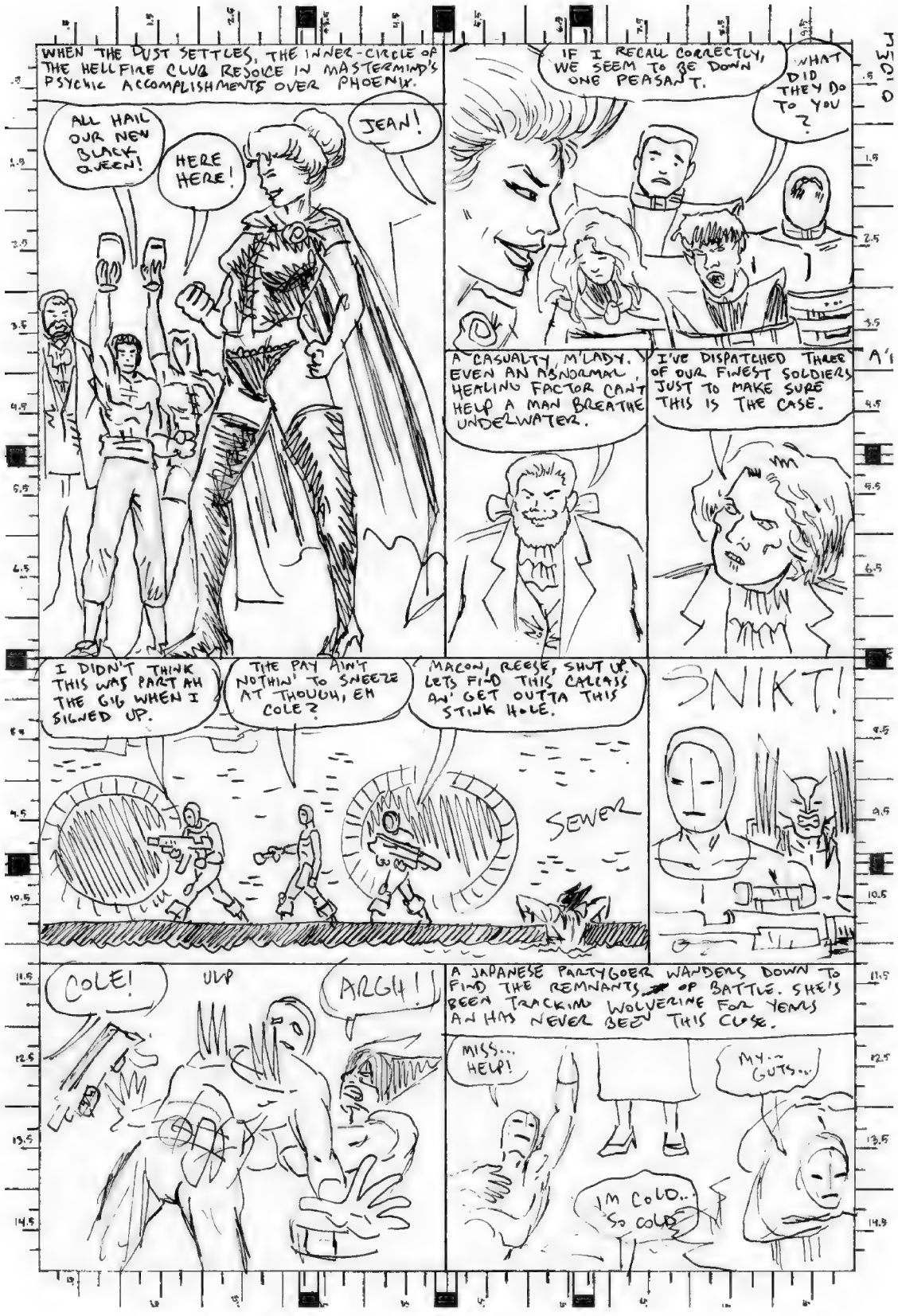
AS THE X-MEN REUNITE, EMMA FROST MAKES HER GETAWAY.

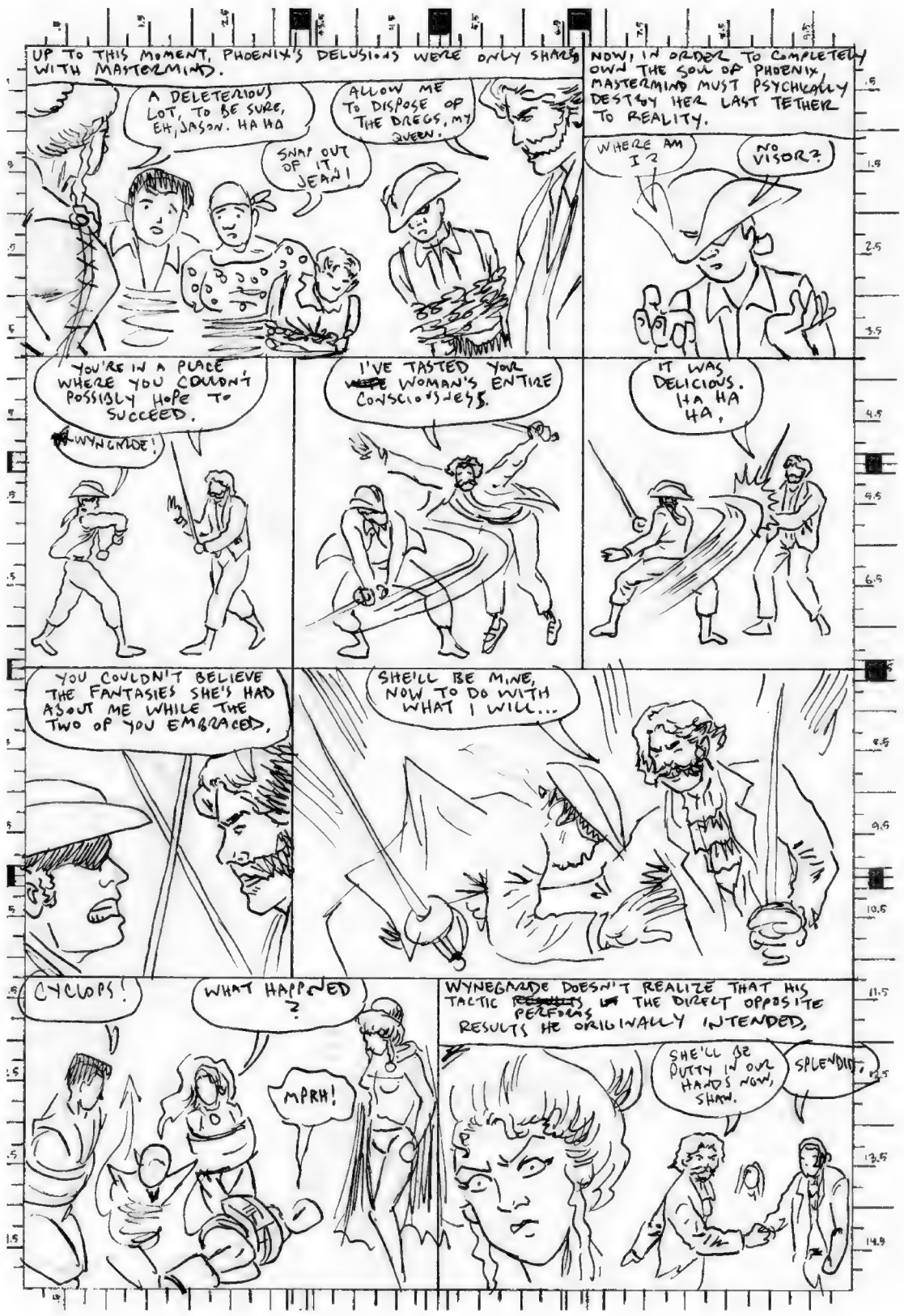
LET'S GET OUR STORY STRAIGHT BEFORE SHAW STARTS INTERROGATING US.


THE X-MEN TAKE REFUGE AT ONE OF WARREN WORTHINGTON'S MANSIONS WHILE THE XAVIER SCHOOL IS BEING SWEPT FOR SURREPTITIOUS SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT...
...BUT AIN'T THE HELLFIRE CLUB JUSSA BUNCHA KINKY YUPPIES LOOKIN' FOR JOLLIES?
WELL, LOGAN. I COULD HAVE PROBABLY GOTTEN A LOT MORE INFORMATION IF YOU WOULD HAVE LEFT ANY SURVIVORS.
HA HA
Y'KNOW WHAT THEY SAY, RED. GOTTA CRACK SOME EGGS TO... HUH?
JEAN! WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU! YOU'VE NOT SEEN ACTING YOURSELF.
WHERE WAS I? OH YES. THE HELLFIRE CLUB.
AAAH!
HOLD ON. BEAST IS ABOUT TO CALL US TO REPORT THAT HE'S LOCATED ALL THE SPYWARE BACK HOME.
BRIIING
BRIIIING!
PHONE
UH... YES?
HI WARREN. IT'S HANK...
JEAN?
WEEKS LATER, IN NEW YORK CITY.
I DON'T LIKE IT, SCOTT
THEY ALREADY KNOW WE'RE ONTO THEM, ORORO.
...BESIDES, THIS PARTY IS OPEN TO ANYONE WHO CAN AFFORD THE ONE THOUSAND DOLLAR TICKET...
YOUR COAT, MADAM.
DIRECTLY UNDERNEATH THE FESTIVITIES.
THEY GOTTA BE INSIDE BY NOW. GIMME A BOOST, ELF.
SEWER
THE HELLFIRE CLUB, AN ARISTOCRATIC PLEASURE PARADISE FOUNDED BACK WHEN NEW YORK WAS CALLED NEW AMSTERDAM.
IS THAT SENATOR KELLY?
I FEEL SO EXPOSED.
WELL, MASTERMIND LET'S SEE IF THERE'S SUBSTANCE TO ALL YOUR BLUSTER.
MAY I HAVE THIS DANCE?
WYNGARDE
THESE KINDS OF HALLUCINATIONS HAVE BECOME MORE AND MORE FREQUENT FOR PHOENIX, LATELY.
OPEN PANEL
COLONIAL FANTASY
HEY STRANGER. YOU WOULDN'T LEAVE A GIRL TWIDDLING HER THUMBS, WOULD YOU?
WAIT. JEAN!
JEAN
THIS WAY, MY QUEEN.
WALKING AWAY
DANCERS IN THE WAY!

IT'S ALMOST LIKE THE CROWD IS PREVENTING SCOTT FROM REACHING PHOENIX.
EXCUSE ME, EXCUSE ME.
WYVE GAME
JEAN
HEY!
CYCLOPS CAN'T BE SURE, BUT FOR A SPLIT SECOND, AT A CERTAIN ANGLE, JASON WYNEGARDE LOOKS JUST LIKE...
MASTERMIND?
JEAN
OH MY
JEAN...
HE'S INSIDE YOUR HEAD!
JEAN!
HUH?
SCOTT? WHAT IS THIS?
AARGH!
PHOENIX NO LONGER SEES HERSELF UNDER THE GUISE OF JEAN GREY. SHE HAS NOW BECOME THE BLACK QUEEN OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB.
IN THE HELLFIRE CLUB'S BASEMENT COMMAND CENTER...
DO YOU HEAR SOMETHING LELAND?
OVER THERE
SHHH... KEEP QUIET, PIERCE
BASEMENT FLOOR IS BROKEN THROUGH
WOLVIES HAND GUTS THROUGH RUBBLE.


THAT WASN'T MUCH OF A CHALLENGE, EH, MEIN FREUND?
DON'T LET THE SILENCE FOOL YOU, ELF.
>SNIFF, SNIFF.< C'MON OUT NOW, YA NERDS.
HUH?
DONALD PIERCE DEVELOPED A TECHNOLOGY THAT COULD THEORETICALLY PREVENT NIGHTCRAWLER FROM TELEPORTING...
HOWEVER, THERE IS STILL NO SUBSTANCE ON EARTH THAT CAN STAND UP TO WOLVERINE'S ADAMANTIUM CLAWS.
AH...
NO MORE OF THIS...
LITTLE MAN..
NIGHT CRAWLER STILL FIGHTING SEVERED ARM
WOLVERINE FINDS OUT THAT HARRY LELAND HAS THE ODD MUTANT ABILITY TO INCREASE THE WEIGHT OF ANY PERSON OR OBJECT HE RESTS HIS EYES UPON.
UPSTAIRS, COLOSSUS AND STORM DON'T FAIR MUCH BETTER AGAINST SEBASTIAN SHAW IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO AID CYCLOPS.
HA HA HA
EVERY BLOW COLOSSUS LANDED INCREASED SHAW'S STRENGTH BY A FACTOR OF 5.
FLICK!


WHEN THE DUST SETTLES, THE INNER-CIRCLE OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB REJOICE IN MASTERMIND'S PSYCHIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER PHOENIX.
ALL HAIL OUR NEW BLACK QUEEN!
HERE HERE!
JEAN!
IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, WE SEEM TO BE DOWN ONE PEASANT.
WHAT DID THEY DO TO YOU?
A CASUALTY, M'LADY. EVEN AN ABNORMAL HEALING FACTOR CAN'T HELP A MAN BREATHE UNDERWATER.
I'VE DISPATCHED THREE OF OUR FINEST SOLDIERS JUST TO MAKE SURE THIS IS THE CASE.
I DIDN'T THINK THIS WAS PART AH THE GIG WHEN I SIGNED UP.
THE PAY AIN'T NOTHIN' TO SNEEZE AT THOUGH, EH COLE?
MACON, REESE, SHUT UP. LETS FIND THIS CARCASS AN' GET OUTTA THIS STINK HOLE.
SEWER
SNIKT!
COLE!
ULP
ARGH!
A JAPANESE PARTYGOER WANDERS DOWN TO FIND THE REMNANTS OF BATTLE. SHE'S BEEN TRACKING WOLVERINE FOR YEARS AN HAS NEVER BEEN THIS CLOSE.
MISS... HELP!
MY... GUTS...
I'M COLD... SO COLD


UP TO THIS MOMENT, PHOENIX'S DELUSIONS WERE ONLY SHARED WITH MASTERMIND.
A DELETERIOUS LOT, TO BE SURE, EH, JASON. HA HA
ALLOW ME TO DISPOSE OF THE DREGS, MY QUEEN.
SNAP OUT OF IT JEAN!
NOW, IN ORDER TO COMPLETELY OWN THE SOUL OF PHOENIX, MASTERMIND MUST PSYCHICALLY DESTROY HER LAST TETHER TO REALITY.
WHERE AM I?
NO VISOR?
YOU'RE IN A PLACE WHERE YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY HOPE TO SUCCEED.
WYNGARDE!
I'VE TASTED YOUR WOMAN'S ENTIRE CONSCIOUSNESS.
IT WAS DELICIOUS. HA HA HA.
YOU COULDN'T BELIEVE THE FANTASIES SHE'S HAD ABOUT ME WHILE THE TWO OF YOU EMBRACED.
SHE'LL BE MINE, NOW TO DO WITH WHAT I WILL...
CYCLOPS!
WHAT HAPPENED?
MPRH!
WYNEGARDE DOESN'T REALIZE THAT HIS TACTIC PERFORMS THE DIRECT OPPOSITE RESULTS HE ORIGINALLY INTENDED.
SHE'LL BE PUTTY IN OUR HANDS NOW, SHAW.
SPLENDID.

THE PARTY-GOERS HAVEN'T A CLUE WHAT'S HAPPENING ABOVE AND BELOW THEM AS THEIR INTOXICATION AND FRIVOLOUS, SUPERFICIAL CHIT-CHAT CREATES AN ALMOST IMPENETRABLE WHITE NOISE.

RICH PEOPLE DANCING

OBLIVIOUS TO DRAMA

UNTIL...

HUH?

LOOK OUT!

LELAND GETS ZAPPED

PARTY BELOW

CROWD GATHERS AROUND LELAND

WHEN PHOENIX REGAINED HER SENSES THE FIRST THING SHE DID WAS BOLSTER CYCLOPS SHATTERED CONSTITUTION.

WYNEGARDE, YOU BASTARD! GET OVER HERE.

CYCLOPS SHOOTS GROUND UNDER SHAW.

SHAW!

PIERCE LUNGES TOWARD HOLE SHAW FELL THROUGH

THE MAIN BALLROOM, SENATOR ROBERT KELLY MAKES AN OBSERVATION WHEN WOLVERINE MATERIALIZES FROM THE BASEMENT.

A MUTANT TERRORIST! RUN!

LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE FINALLY GETTING LIVELY!

UPSTAIRS...

REGARDLESS OF TANGIBLE BATTLE WOUNDS THE HELLFIRE CLUB'S INNER CIRCLE ARE ABLE TO SLIP FROM THE X-MEN'S GRASP.

THE COUPLE IS READY.

SHAW!

I'M GOING TO MAKE THIS KITCHEN WITH SECRET SEASONING

IT LOOK LIKE OUR SOLDIERS MET A WORSE FATE.

BARGING PAST THE CROWD WOLVERINE'S KEEN SENSE OF SMELL DRAWS HIM CLOSER AND CLOSER TO...

WOLVERINE COMING UP STAIRS

PHOENIX...

JEANNIE!

WOLVERINE JUST MISSED HOW IMPLODE MASTERMIND'S BRAIN OPAN ITSELF

YOU MISSED ALL THE FUN LOGAN.

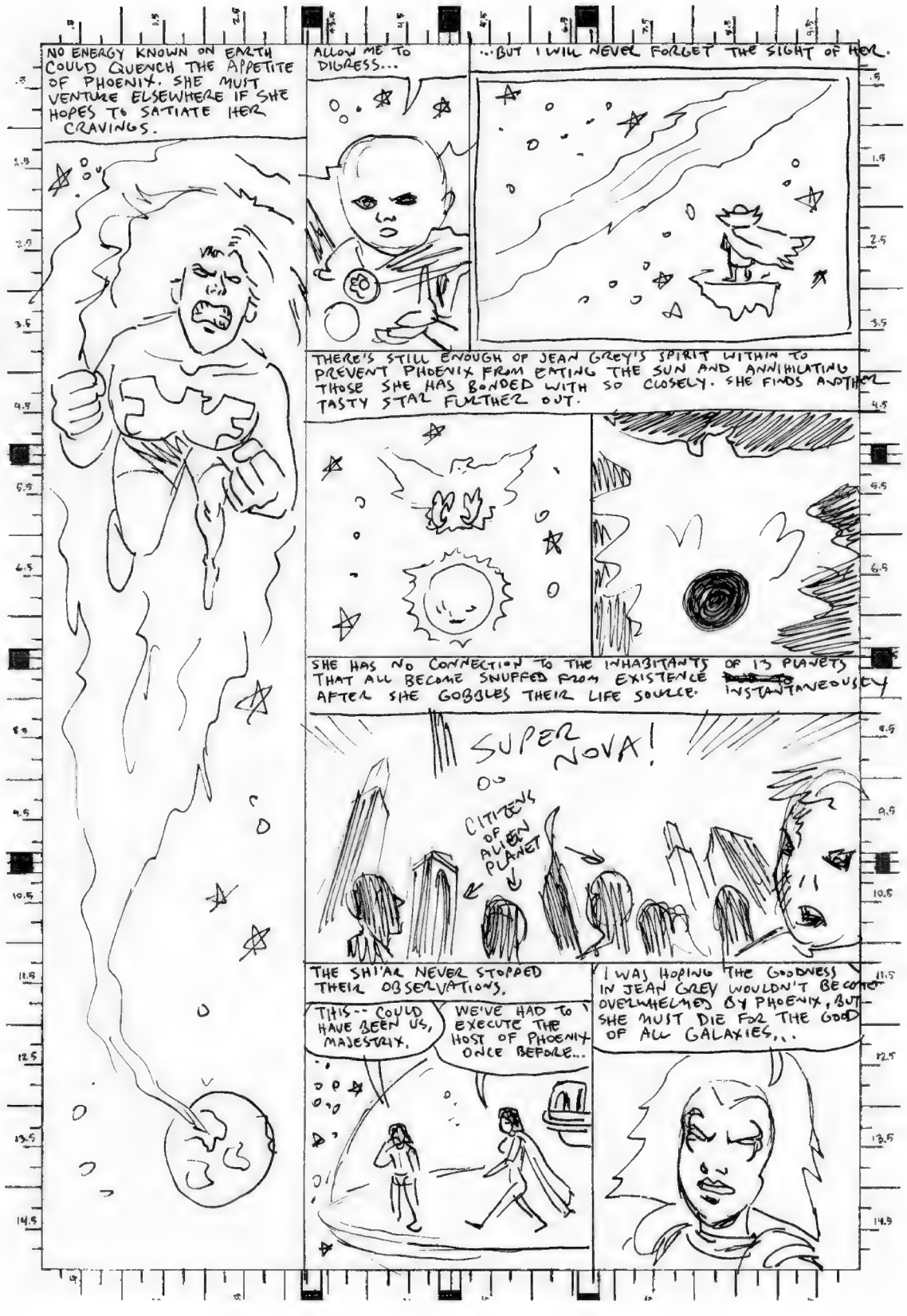
RED, YOU PICKLED THE JERKS BRAINS

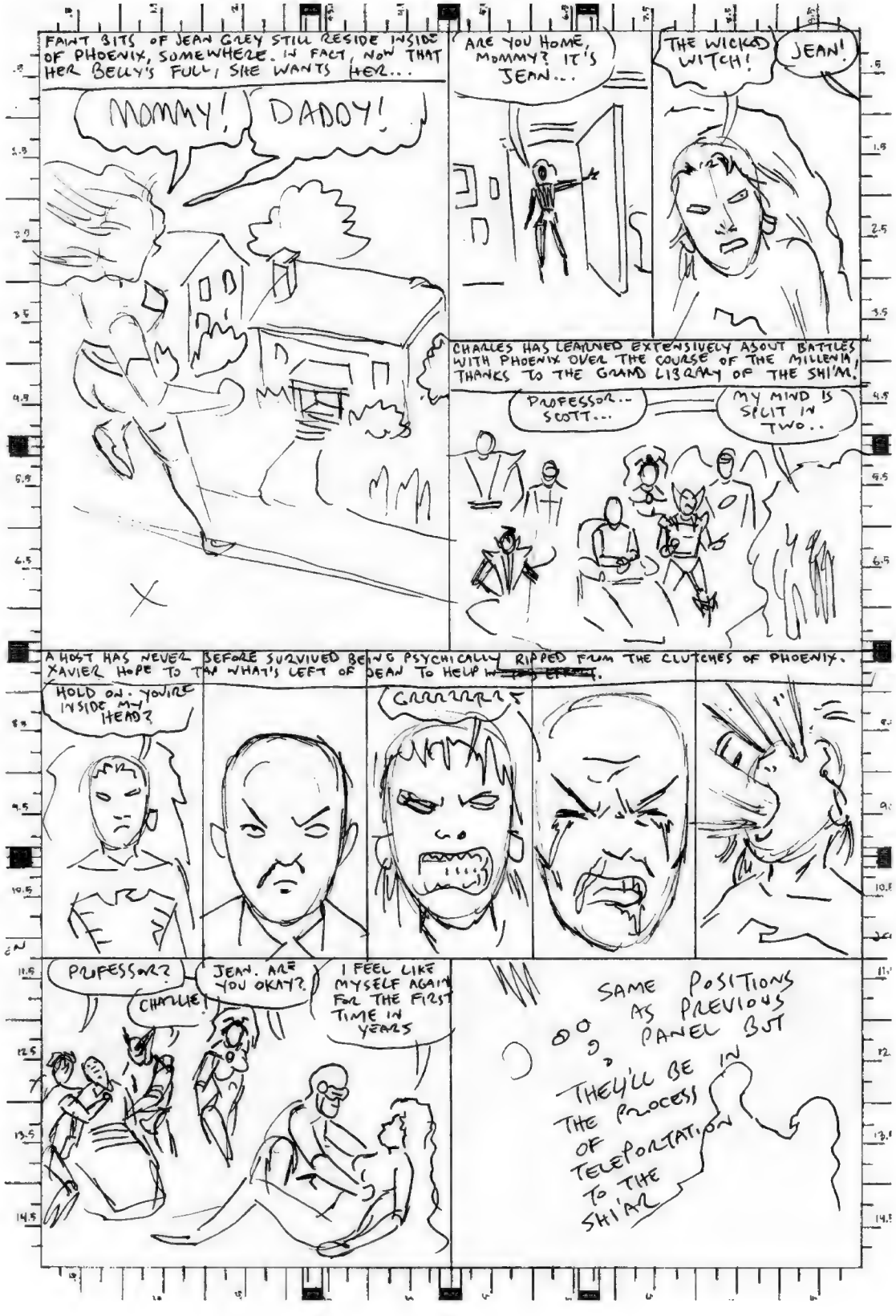
SOMEHOW WHEN MASTERMIND WITH HER THOUGHTS, HE HELPED RELEASE A GEYSER OF UNRESTRICTED POWER THAT PHOENIX FORGOT SHE HAD.

THE NARCOTIC EUPHORIA SHE FEELS IS UNCONTAINABLE IN HER CURRENT FORM.

I HUNGER!

GOD HAS NO PLACE ... ELSE.


NO ENERGY KNOWN ON EARTH COULD QUENCH THE APPETITE OF PHOENIX. SHE MUST VENTURE ELSEWHERE IF SHE HOPES TO SATIATE HER CRAVINGS.
ALLOW ME TO DIGRESS...
...BUT I WILL NEVER FORGET THE SIGHT OF HER.
THERE'S STILL ENOUGH OF JEAN GREY'S SPIRIT WITHIN TO PREVENT PHOENIX FROM EATING THE SUN AND ANNIHILATING THOSE SHE HAS BONDED WITH SO CLOSELY. SHE FINDS ANOTHER TASTY STAR FURTHER OUT.
SHE HAS NO CONNECTION TO THE INHABITANTS OF 13 PLANETS THAT ALL BECOME SNUFFED FROM EXISTENCE ~~[illegible]~~ INSTANTANEOUSLY AFTER SHE GOBBLES THEIR LIFE SOURCE.
SUPER NOVA!
CITIZENS OF ALIEN PLANET
THE SHI'AR NEVER STOPPED THEIR OBSERVATIONS.
THIS-- COULD HAVE BEEN US, MAJESTRIX.
WE'VE HAD TO EXECUTE THE HOST OF PHOENIX ONCE BEFORE...
I WAS HOPING THE GOODNESS IN JEAN GREY WOULDN'T BE COMPLETELY OVERWHELMED BY PHOENIX, BUT SHE MUST DIE FOR THE GOOD OF ALL GALAXIES...


FAINT BITS OF JEAN GREY STILL RESIDE INSIDE OF PHOENIX, SOMEWHERE. IN FACT, NOW THAT HER BELLY'S FULL, SHE WANTS HER...
MOMMY!
DADDY!
ARE YOU HOME, MOMMY? IT'S JEAN...
THE WICKED WITCH!
JEAN!
CHARLES HAS LEARNED EXTENSIVELY ABOUT BATTLES WITH PHOENIX OVER THE COURSE OF THE MILLENIA, THANKS TO THE GRAND LIBRARY OF THE SHI'AR.
PROFESSOR.. SCOTT...
MY MIND IS SPLIT IN TWO..
A HOST HAS NEVER BEFORE SURVIVED BEING PSYCHICALLY RIPPED FROM THE CLUTCHES OF PHOENIX. XAVIER HOPE TO TAP WHAT'S LEFT OF JEAN TO HELP HIM ~~[illegible]~~.
HOLD ON. YOU'RE INSIDE MY HEAD?
GRRRRRRR
PROFESSOR?
CHARLIE!
JEAN. ARE YOU OKAY?
I FEEL LIKE MYSELF AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS
SAME POSITIONS AS PREVIOUS PANEL BUT
THEY'LL BE IN THE PROCESS OF TELEPORTATION TO THE SHI'AR

THE X-MEN MATERIALIZE INTO THE COURTROOM CHAMBER OF THE SHI'AR MOTHERSHIP.

LILANDRA, PLEASE ALLOW ME TO SPEAK BEFORE YOU GIVE A VERDICT.

WHAT IS THIS CHUCK?

PHOENIX IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WANTONLY DESTROYING A STAR SYSTEM WITH TRILLIONS OF INHABITANTS.

JEAN GREY MUST BE PUT TO DEATH BEFORE THERE IS FURTHER CARNAGE, CHARLES

YOU'LL HAVE TO KILL ME... KILL US ALL, FIRST.

SCOTT!

WE CHALLENGE YOU TO "ARIN'NA HAELAL", AN HONOR DUEL A SHI'AR CANNOT REFUSE

YOU LEARNED SO MUCH ABOUT MY CULTURE, CHARLES, HOWEVER, THIS IS BIGGER THAN JUST THE SHI'AR.

LILANDRA MUST CONSULT WITH NEIGHBORING GALACTIC SUPERPOWERS ~~BEFORE ACCEPTING A DUEL~~

THE HUMANS WOULD FIGHT, REGARDLESS. I ACCEPT THEIR CHALLENGE.

AS LONG AS THEY'RE NOT VICTORIOUS, WE ALSO ACCEPT.

THE X-MEN GET ONE NIGHT'S REPRIEVE TO PREPARE FOR THE BATTLE OF THEIR LIVES.

I-I LOVE YOU, JEAN. SO MUCH.

I KNOW.

PUNCTUALLY, THE VERY NEXT MORNING.

ON THE DARK-SIDE OF THE MOON.

OOOF!

WHO DARE?!

STOP!

THE PHOENIX... IS STILL INSIDE ME ~~OF~~ SCOTT. SHE TORMENTS ME.

I CAN'T CONTINUE TO BE ~~SO~~ SELFISH. ~~S~~ YOU ARE ALL AT RISK. LILANDRA WAS RIGHT.

JEAN? I CAN'T MOVE? DON'T

I HAVE THE BLOOD OF TRILLIONS ON MY HANDS, SCOTT... AND A DARK PART OF MYSELF LIKES IT. I'M SO SCARED.

I LOVE YOU, SCOTT.

BUT, FOR THE GOOD OF THE UNIVERSE.

AAAAAH!

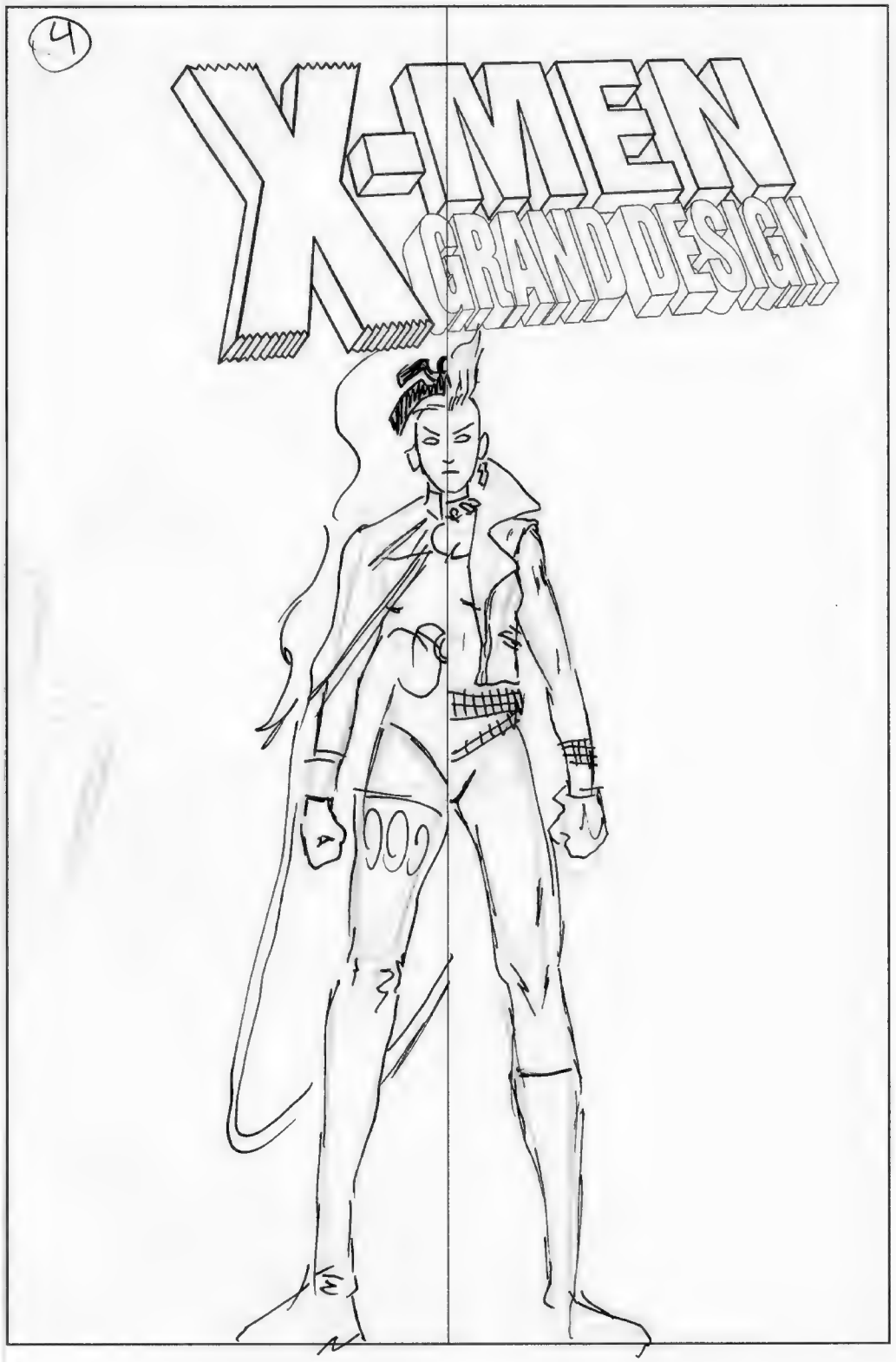
NOOO!

CYCLOPS THEN REALIZES WHY PHOENIX BROKE THE PSYCHIC BOND THEY SHARE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE BATTLE...

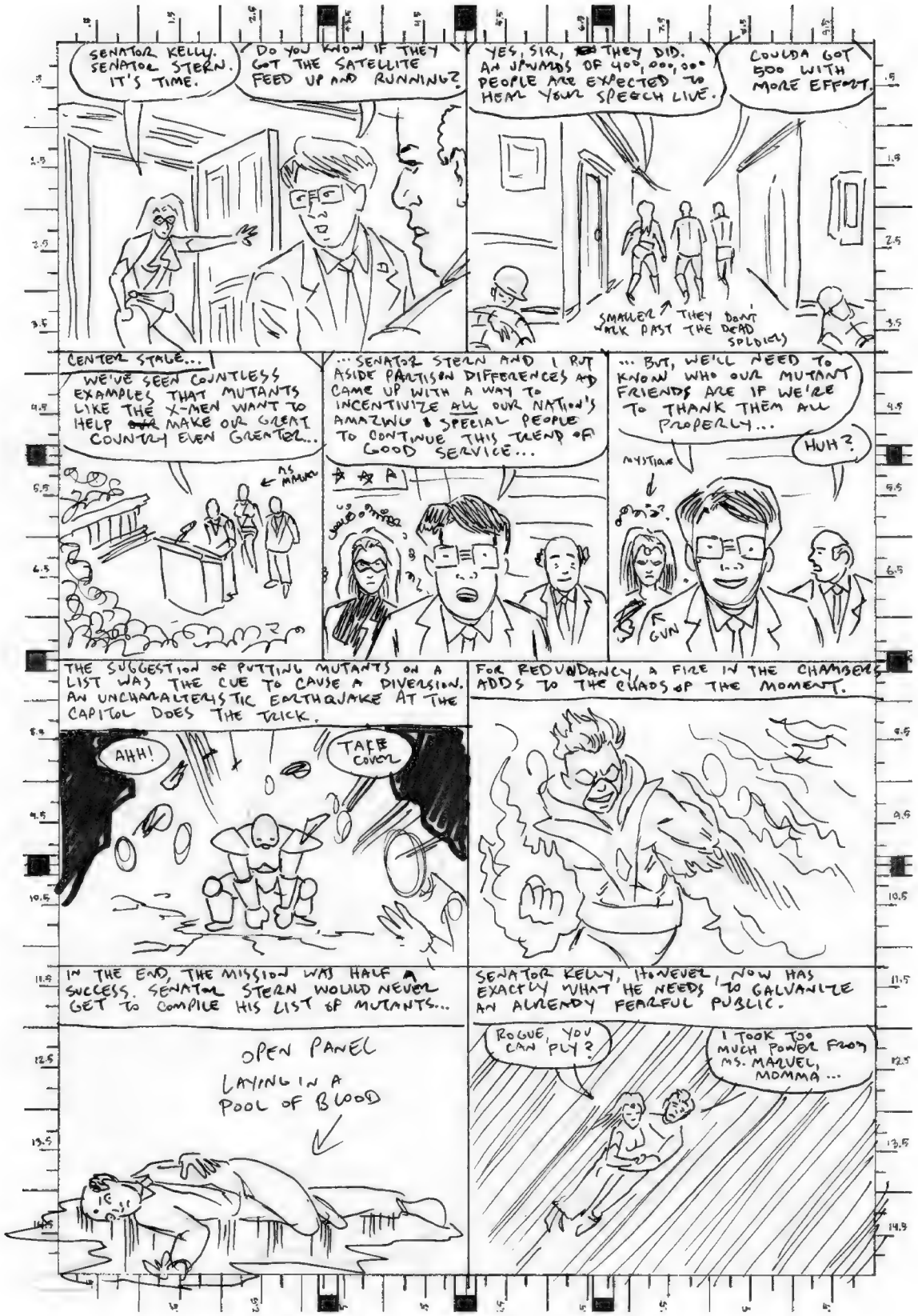
YOU PLANNED THIS...

YOU PLANNED THIS THE WHOLE TIME.

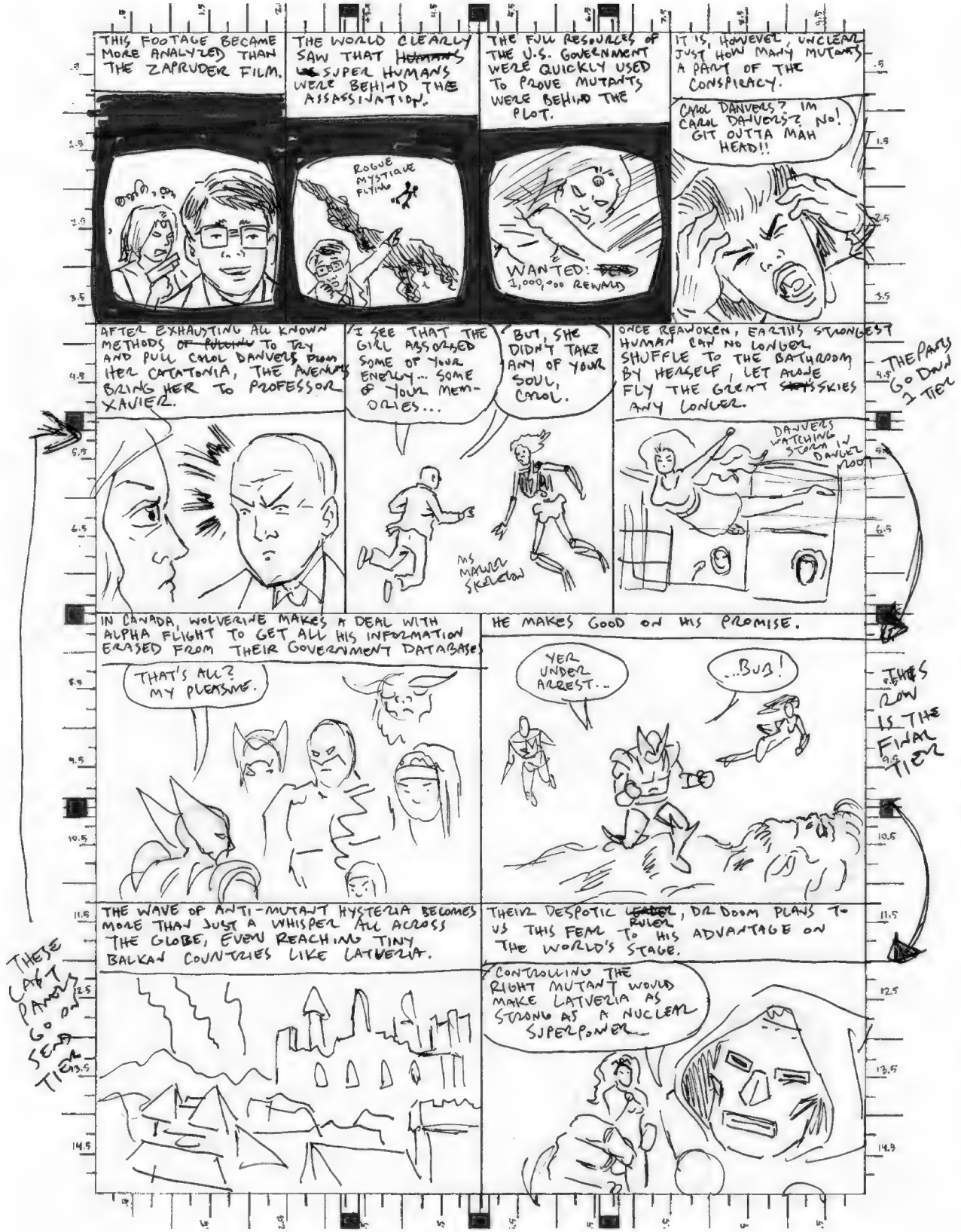
THE SHI'AR ARE SATISFIED WITH PHOENIX'S SELF DESTRUCTION. THE X-MEN ~~ARE~~ PROJECTED BACK HOME TO ENGAGE IN CUSTOMARY, TERRESTRIAL MOURNING RITUALS.
JEAN'S PARENTS ACCEPT HER DEATH, BUT THE COULDN'T POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND WHAT TRANSPIRED...
I MISS HER SO MUCH, MR. GREY.
YOU DID ALL YOU COULD, SCOTT.
PROFESSOR. I DON'T HAVE IT IN ME TO FULFILL MY DUTIES AS AN X-MAN ANY LONGER..
I UNDERSTAND, SCOTT.
GOODBYE, MY SON.
MR, MRS. GREY, PLEASE ACCEPT MY CONDOLENCES. IT MAY NOT SOOTHE ~~THINGS~~ YOUR EMOTIONS, BUT JEAN IS BEING CELEBRATED ACROSS THE GALAXY FOR HER HEROIC.... ACTIONS..
WHAT IS THIS?
A GIFT. WHEN HOLDING THE CRYSTAL, YOU WILL ~~BE~~ FEEL THE ~~BEST~~ ESSENCE OF JEAN'S SPIRIT...
IT'S AS IF SHE'S RIGHT HERE...
AT THE PRECISE MOMENT OF THE FUNERAL...
A CACOON GESTATES AND MATURES IN ~~THE~~ LONG ISLAND. JAMAICA BAY...
PLUS, A NEW STUDENT ~~SOON~~ ARRIVES TO THE VACANT STEPS OF THE XAVIER SCHOOL WONDERING WHERE EVERYBODY IS.
I GUESS I CAN JUST WALK THROUGH THE DOOR...

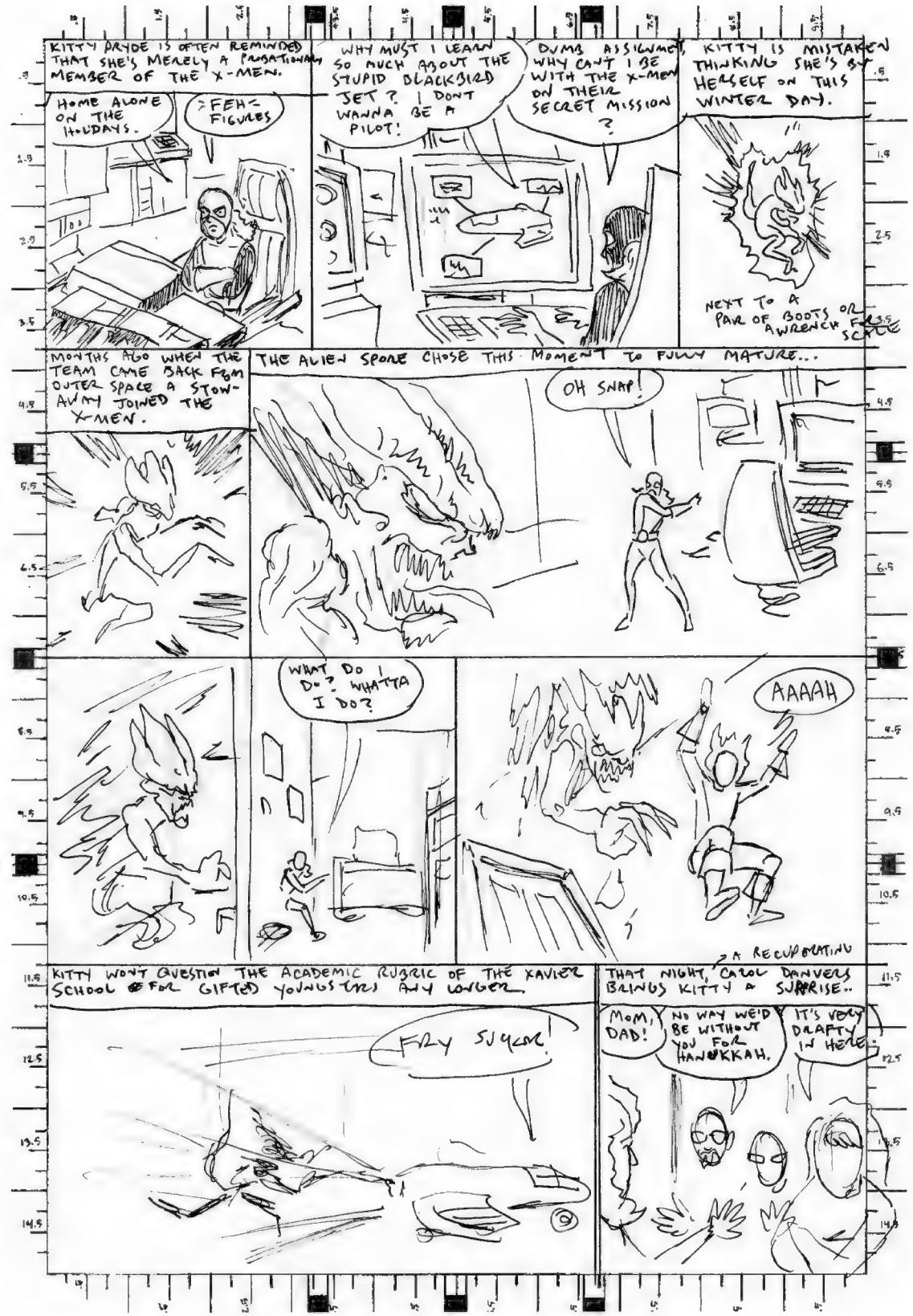

4
X-MEN
GRAND DESIGN

CAROL DANVERS WHOLE LIFE WAS MOTIVATED BY HER LOYALTY TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
AT EASE, GENTLEMEN
HER OUTSTANDING AIR-FORCE CAREER MADE HER A FAST TRACK CANDIDATE FOR THE CIA. SHE WAS GOOD AT KEEPING SECRETS, TOO
LIKE HER LOVE AFFAIR WITH COLONEL MICHAEL ROSSI.
IT'S NOT A CONFLICT OF INTEREST IF WE DON'T GET CAUGHT.
NICK FURY IDENTIFIED HER APTITUDE EARLY, RECRUITING HER TO BECOME THE YOUNGEST AGENT OF SHIELD IN HISTORY. ONE MISSION EVER TURNED HER INTO A SUPER-HERO.
AS MS. MARVEL SHE ESTABLISHED HERSELF WITH THE AVENGERS. IT WAS DETERMINED THAT SHE BECAME THE MOST PHYSICALLY POWERFUL HUMAN ON EARTH.
OPEN PANEL
USE NEXT PANEL DIALOGUE HERE
DANVERS HAS NEVER WAVERED IN HER LOYALTY TO THE COUNTRY. HERE SHE STANDS GUARD OF A COUPLE SENATORS WHO ARE ABOUT TO MAKE A VERY CONTROVERSICAL STATEMENT.
MS. MARVEL, CAN I GET YOUR AUTO-GRAPH?
HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE GIRL?
I'M A BIG FAN. CAN I FEEL YOUR MUSCLE?
HUH?
THIS IS THE ONLY FAILURE OF CAROL DANVERS ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER AND IT'S GOING TO BE THE DEATH OF MUTANT KIND.
THE BAD GUYS ARE IN THERE, MOMMA
PUTS GLOVE BACK ON
I FEEL EXTRA FUNNY ...
GOOD GIRL, ROGUE, DARLING


SENATOR KELLY. SENATOR STERN. IT'S TIME.
DO YOU KNOW IF THEY GOT THE SATELLITE FEED UP AND RUNNING?
YES, SIR, THEY DID. AN UPWARDS OF 400,000,000 PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO HEAR YOUR SPEECH LIVE.
COULDA GOT 500 WITH MORE EFFORT.
SMALLER THEY DON'T WALK PAST THE DEAD SPLODGY
CENTER STAGE...
WE'VE SEEN COUNTLESS EXAMPLES THAT MUTANTS LIKE THE X-MEN WANT TO HELP MAKE OUR GREAT COUNTRY EVEN GREATER...
AS MMMM
...SENATOR STERN AND I PUT ASIDE PARTISAN DIFFERENCES AND CAME UP WITH A WAY TO INCENTIVIZE ALL OUR NATION'S AMAZING & SPECIAL PEOPLE TO CONTINUE THIS TREND OF GOOD SERVICE...
...BUT, WE'LL NEED TO KNOW WHO OUR MUTANT FRIENDS ARE IF WE'RE TO THANK THEM ALL PROPERLY...
HUH?
MYSTIQUE
GUN
THE SUGGESTION OF PUTTING MUTANTS ON A LIST WAS THE CUE TO CAUSE A DIVERSION. AN UNCHARACTERISTIC EARTHQUAKE AT THE CAPITOL DOES THE TRICK.
AHH!
TAKE COVER
FOR REDUNDANCY, A FIRE IN THE CHAMBERS ADDS TO THE CHAOS OF THE MOMENT.
IN THE END, THE MISSION WAS HALF A SUCCESS. SENATOR STERN WOULD NEVER GET TO COMPILE HIS LIST OF MUTANTS...
SENATOR KELLY, HOWEVER, NOW HAS EXACTLY WHAT HE NEEDS TO GALVANIZE AN ALREADY FEARFUL PUBLIC.
OPEN PANEL
LAYING IN A POOL OF BLOOD
ROGUE, YOU CAN FLY?
I TOOK TOO MUCH POWER FROM MS. MARVEL, MOMMA...

THE X-MEN ALL REMEMBER THE DAY OF THE ASSASSINATION CLEARLY...
IT WAS THE SAME DAY STORM TOOK THE REINS OF X-MEN LEADERSHIP AFTER CYCLOPS LEFT.
INCREDIBLE CHALLENGES ARE ON THE HORIZON FOR ALL MUTANTS, BUT I KNOW YOU'LL HANDLE THEM WITH GRACE AND RESPONSIBILITY...
I WON'T LET YOU DOWN, PROFESSOR...
A HOMESICK PETER RASPUTIN'S YOUNG SISTER ILLYANA WAS VISITING AMERICA.
BUT I DON'T WANNA GO HOME EARLY, PETER.
IT WILL BE SAFE BACK IN MOTHER RUSSIA.
NIGHTCRAWLER APPEALS TO HIS HIGHER POWER...
LORD, HELP US
WOLVERINE PROPOSED TO MARIKO YASHIDA DAYS AFTER HE MURDERED HER CRIME-LORD FATHER.
...GONNA HAVE TO LEAVE JAPAN FOR A MITE, DARLIN'...
...I DONT HAVE MUCH ON THE BOOKS BUT WHAT DOES EXIST IS SITTING ON A CANADIAN GOVERNMENT COMPUTER. THE SUITS IN THE USA ARE GONNA START BUILDING PROFILE ON US MUTIES...
THE DAY STARTED OUT HAPPILY AS KITTY PRYDE BECAME THE ONLY MUTANT TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THEIR FIRST DANGER ROOM EXERCISE.
EASY PEEZY.
THE SENATOR'S MURDER TOOK PLACE ENROUTE TO HER DANCE CLASS AT STEVIE HUNTER'S STUDIO...
CYCLOPS. FLORIDA.
YOUR ADVERTISING A FISHERMAN JOB IN THE PAPER? ARE YOU "MAD" PRYOR?
HAW! YER A LAND LUBBER I EVER SAW ONE.
MADDY'S SHADOW
YOU GOTTA EARN THE PRIVELEGE TO CALL ME "MAD", SLIM, BUT YOU C'N CALL ME CAPTAIN.
AHH!
YOU WANT THE GIG OR WHAT, GOOF?
UM... UH... YES. YES. YOU JUST... LOOKED FAMILIAR AT FIRST...


THIS FOOTAGE BECAME MORE ANALYZED THAN THE ZAPRUDER FILM.
THE WORLD CLEARLY SAW THAT SUPER HUMANS WERE BEHIND THE ASSASSINATION.
ROGUE MYSTIQUE FLYING
THE FULL RESOURCES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WERE QUICKLY USED TO PROVE MUTANTS WERE BEHIND THE PLOT.
WANTED: 1,000,000 REWARD
IT IS, HOWEVER, UNCLEAR JUST HOW MANY MUTANTS A PART OF THE CONSPIRACY.
CAROL DANVERS? IM CAROL DANVERS? NO! GIT OUTTA MAH HEAD!!
AFTER EXHAUSTING ALL KNOWN METHODS TO TRY AND PULL CAROL DANVERS FROM HER CATATONIA, THE AVENGERS BRING HER TO PROFESSOR XAVIER.
I SEE THAT THE GIRL ABSORBED SOME OF YOUR ENERGY... SOME OF YOUR MEMORIES...
BUT, SHE DIDN'T TAKE ANY OF YOUR SOUL, CAROL.
MS MARVEL SKELETON
ONCE REAWOKEN, EARTH'S STRONGEST HUMAN CAN NO LONGER SHUFFLE TO THE BATHROOM BY HERSELF, LET ALONE FLY THE GREAT SKIES ANY LONGER.
DANVERS WATCHING STORM IN DANGER ROOM
THE PANELS GO DOWN 1 TIER
IN CANADA, WOLVERINE MAKES A DEAL WITH ALPHA FLIGHT TO GET ALL HIS INFORMATION ERASED FROM THEIR GOVERNMENT DATABASES
THAT'S ALL? MY PLEASURE.
HE MAKES GOOD ON HIS PROMISE.
YER UNDER ARREST...
...BUT!
THIS ROW IS THE FINAL TIER
THE WAVE OF ANTI-MUTANT HYSTERIA BECOMES MORE THAN JUST A WHISPER ALL ACROSS THE GLOBE, EVEN REACHING TINY BALKAN COUNTRIES LIKE LATVERIA.
THEIR DESPOTIC RULER, DR DOOM PLANS TO USE THIS FEAR TO HIS ADVANTAGE ON THE WORLD'S STAGE.
CONTROLLING THE RIGHT MUTANT WOULD MAKE LATVERIA AS STRONG AS A NUCLEAR SUPERPOWER...
THESE LAST PANELS GO ON SEMI TIER


KITTY PRYDE IS OFTEN REMINDED THAT SHE'S MERELY A PROBATIONARY MEMBER OF THE X-MEN.
HOME ALONE ON THE HOLIDAYS.
FEH- FIGURES
WHY MUST I LEARN SO MUCH ABOUT THE STUPID BLACKBIRD JET? I DONT WANNA BE A PILOT!
DUMB ASSIGNMENT, WHY CAN'T I BE WITH THE X-MEN ON THEIR SECRET MISSION?
KITTY IS MISTAKEN THINKING SHE'S BY HERSELF ON THIS WINTER DAY.
NEXT TO A PAIR OF BOOTS OR A WRENCH FOR SCALE
MONTHS AGO WHEN THE TEAM CAME BACK FROM OUTER SPACE A STOWAWAY JOINED THE X-MEN.
THE ALIEN SPORE CHOSE THIS MOMENT TO FULLY MATURE...
OH SNAP!
WHAT DO I DO? WHATTA I DO?
AAAAH
KITTY WON'T QUESTION THE ACADEMIC RUBRIC OF THE XAVIER SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS ANY LONGER.
FRY SUCKER!
THAT NIGHT, A RECUPERATING CAROL DANVERS BRINGS KITTY A SURPRISE..
MOM, DAD!
NO WAY WE'D BE WITHOUT YOU FOR HANUKKAH.
IT'S VERY DRAFTY IN HERE.

WHAT HAS BEEN KEPT FROM KITTY PRYDE IS HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED AND HER PARENTS ARE SAFETY.

MOIRA MACTAGGERT

HA HA. THIS ISN'T THE FAMOUSTIC FOOL YOU MESSIN' WITH

ILLYANA RASPUTIN.

MOMMY? DADDY? PETER?

SOB

THAT MANY OF THE X-MEN'S CLOSEST CONFIDANTS BEING WAREHOUSED AT THE MANSION FOR THEIR

STEVIE HUNTER

WHAT IS ALL THIS ABOUT? X-MEN? THE

MARIKO YASHIDA.

OMMMMMA

STORM RECEIVES A THREAT IN THE FORM OF AN INVITE TO DR. DOOM CASTLE. SHE ARRIVES NEAR THE EASTERN BORDER OF LATVERIA WHILE THE X-MEN TEST THEIR STEALTH TOWARD THE WEST.

SHE MEETS NO RESISTANCE UPON ENTRY TO DOOM'S DWELLINGS YET STORM REMAINS CAUTIOUS AND STEW.

...NOT HUNGRY.

WHERE ARE YOU KEEPING MY FAMILY, DR. DOOM?

MERELY BREATHING WHAT'S MIXED WITH THE AIR INSIDE THE CASTLE REALIZES DR. DOOM'S GOAL. UNSTABLE MOLECULES RENDER STORM INTO A CHROMIUM STATUE WITH A HEART BEAT.

I'LL SET YOUR PEOPLE FREE...

...IF YOU BECOME MY PLAYTHING. MY WEATHER WITCH.

IN AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION BACK IN AMERICA...

...YOU'VE ROBBED ME OF SO MUCH, ROGUE. THE PENALTY?

NO!

BLACK BACKGROUND

EVERY TIME YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES I WILL NEVER EVER LET YOU FORGET IT

AAH

UNCHARACTERISTIC FOR THIS REGION, AN AGGESSIVE TREMOR WITHIN THE EARTH SHAKES ROGUE TO FROM HER NIGHTMARE.

I'M... SORRY

I'M SO SORRY, CAROL.

INCONGRUOUS WEATHER CONDITIONS SWEEP THE GLOBE ALL AT ONCE.

~~MANHATTAN, UNITED STATES~~ NEW YORK CITY, USA

WHERE'D THAT WIND COME FROM?

~~LONDON~~, ENGLAND

NORTHAMPTON

WHAT DID I UNLEASH?

FLOOD

WAKANDA AFRICA

OROROO?

SNOW

T'CHALLA, THE BLACK PANTHER IS CORRECT IN HIS ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT THE METEOROLOGICAL SITUATION HE'S BEEN WITH STORM DURING A CLAUSTROPHOBIC PANIC IN THE PAST.

DR DOOM LEARNS THE HARD WAY THAT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO TAME A GODDESS. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE X-MEN FREE THEIR LOVED ONES WITH EASE.

STORM DOING CRAZY WEATHERCRAFT. SOME PARTS OF HER ARE CHROME, OTHER PARTS OF HER ARE BREAKING THROUGH THE METAL

UNCHARTED TERRITORY, SOMEWHERE IN THE MID-ATLANTIC.

MADELINE, ARE YOU OKAY?

SHIP WRECK

I'M FINE. WHY ARE YOU HOLDING YOUR FACE, SCOTT? WHAT HAPPENED?

SCOTT? JEAN? WELCOME TO MY HUMBLE ISLAND. ITS NICE TO HAVE VISITORS. YOU CAN OPEN YOUR EYES HERE, CYCLOPS.

THAT VOICE?

WHO IS, JEAN?

POST-MISSION, BACK AT WHAT'S STILL STANDING OF THE XAVIER SCHOOL.

THIS KIND OF RHETORIC IS ONLY ADDING DIVISIVE FUEL THAT CAN BE EXPLOITED BY BAD PEOPLE WITH AN AGENDA. LIKE MAGNETO.

DAILY BUGLE — MUTANTS? FRIENDS OR FOES?

IN FACT, I'M NERVOUS THAT MAGNUS HAS BEEN RADIO SILENT FOR SO LONG.

XAVIER SUGGESTS THE X-MEN REVISIT MAGNETOS VOLCANO BASE FOR CLUES TO HIS WHEREABOUTS.

CAN I COME?

ABSOLUTELY NOT. AND WHAT IS THIS COSTUME? ONLY GRADUATES MAY CHOOSE UNIQUE OUTFITS FOR OPERATIONS.

DO YOU GUYS SMELL 'AT?

COMING FROM THIS LOCKER?

MAYBE I'LL STAB IT?

NO!

STORM DOESNT STOP HER TIRADE ON KITTY EVEN WHILE SEARCHING THE BASE...

SNIFF SNIFF

I'M VERY DISSAPPOINTED IN YOU.

STAY CLOSE. WE'LL TALK MORE BACK AT THE HOUSE.

THE TEAM DOESNT FIND MUCH INFO ABOUT MAGNETO BUT THEY DO DISCOVER THAT THEY ARE NOT ALONE RESULTING IN PERIL FOR THEIR LEADER.

...MY HONIE!

STORM!

BAD MOVE, BUD!

GMOKK

PUSH INTO HOLE

SNIKT

NO!

THE MONSTER IS A TRIVIAL MATTER FOR THE X-MEN. KITTY'S PRESENCE BECOMES FORTUITOUS..

YOU C'N WALK ON AIR, TOO, KID?

YEP!

PROFESSOR X TAUGHT ME

ITS LIKE STAIRS

UHHH...

IN THE MID-ATLANTIC...

WHY DON'T MY POWERS WORK ON THIS ISLAND?

POWERS?

NOW, CYCLOPS. I WOULDN'T WANT TO MAKE IT TOO EASY FOR XAVIER TO SEE WHAT I'VE BEEN PLANNING HERE...

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER'S DEATH, MAGNETO AIMS EACH COUNTRIES NUCLEAR ARSENAL UPON THEMSELVES DEMANDING TOTAL SUBMISSION OR DEATH.

THIS EXERTION OF MAGNETO'S POWER MAKE HIS LOCATION INCONSEQUENTIAL TO CHARLES XAVIER AND CEREBRO.

~~ON THIS ISLAND~~, THE X-MEN'S POWERS ARE INHIBITED UNTIL KITTY PRYDE, THE MOST COMPUTER LITERATE MEMBER, MAKES SHORT WORK OF THE ISLAND'S SUPPRESSIVE TECHNOLOGIES.

YANKS TECH OUT OF MACHINE

SPARKING

SIMPLE AS THAT... I THINK.

AFTER CYCLOPS POWERS KICK BACK IN, TO HIS SURPRISE..

SCOTT?

JEAN?

CAN'T OPEN... MY EYES... IS MY BODY HULT?

THE BARRAGE OF OPTIC BLASTS AROUSE MAGNETO'S ATTENTION AS WELL.

HMMM?

THE X-MEN DON'T STAND A CHANCE...

OOF!

KATYA!

MAGNETO DOESN'T RECOGNIZE THIS MEMBER OF THE SQUAD. HE INVESTIGATES...

MY GOD... JUST A CHILD...

MAGNETO...

WHAT HAVE I DONE..

I'M... PLACING YOU... UNDER... ARREST...

DOWN BELOW...

READY TO GO UP TOP AND BRING MORE FRIENDS DOWN HERE TO PLAY?

CALIBAN SAYS "YES".

BLACKNESS

IN THE MIDDLE OF MANHATTAN, ~~RECEIVING~~ STORM, STEVIE HUNTER, AND SPIDERWOMAN TREAT A RECOVERING KITTY PRYDE TO DINNER.

IT ONLY HURTS WHEN I DO THIS...

OUCH.

CALIBAN HAS THE MUTANT ABILITY TO DETECT OTHER MUTANTS. A HUMAN LOCATOR!

HUH? WHA?

CALIBAN LIKES YOU

YOU COME WITH CALIBAN?

A MUTIE!

THERE HAS BEEN SOME TALK THAT EXPOSURE TO SOME MUTANTS COULD LEAD TO CANCER. PLUS, CALIBAN IS SIMPLY A STARTLING SIGHT TO BEHOLD IF ONE IS UNPREPARED.

RUN!

RUNNING FROM CALIBAN

LEAVE KITTY ALONE, ZIEGLER!

~~DOWN BE~~ BACK UNDERGROUND IN "THE ALLEY".

CALIBAN MET HIS WIFE TODAY, CALIS-TO. HE DID.

WE'LL GIT 'ER FOR YA, BUD. WE'LL GET 'ER

THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN SPARING NO EXPENSE TO TRY AND DEVISE WAYS TO STOP FUTURE ACTS OF MUTANT TERRORISM.

HOW'S TRICKS, FORGE. UNCLE SAM WANTS TO SEE WHAT KINDA GOODIES YOU'VE COME UP WITH?

ONE BLAST FROM THIS PEASHOOTER WILL, IN THEORY, PERMANENTLY MAKE ANY MUTIES SPECIAL POWERS GO "BYE BYE".

SECRETLY, FORGE IS, HIMSELF, A MUTANT GIFTED WITH THE ABILITY TO BUILD ALMOST ANYTHING HE IMAGINES. HE CAN'T RISK HIS COVER BY APPEARING OVERCONFIDENT...

ONE PROBLEM THOUGH, FURY...

I'M NOT QUITE SURE HOW TO TEST THIS GAT IN A HUMANE METHOD?

MAKE FURY INSPECT GUN

HE'S QUITE THE MERCENARY TOO, HAVING BUILT MANY THINGS FOR THE X-MEN WITHOUT QUITE KNOWING IT.

CALL ME IF THE CHAIR GIVES YOU TROUBLE.

HA HA. I DOUBT IT WILL...

UNDISCLOSED LOCATION...

I FEAR THE SENATOR IS MORE DANGEROUS DEAD THAN HE WAS WHEN ALIVE... WE'VE MADE A MARTYR OUT OF HIM...

WE ALL HAVE CRIMINAL RECORDS ON THE FEDERAL DATABASES. THAT STUFF IS GONNA BITE US IN THE... ROGUE? WHERE'S ROGUE?

WHAT'S WRONG, DARLING?

MOMMA. I DON'T SLEEP ANYMORE. I THINK I'M SICK...

X-MANSION...

...SINCE YOU BROUGHT IT UP, I WONDER, DO YOU MISS IT, CAROL?

WELL, I LIVED MOST OF MY LIFE WITHOUT "SUPERPOWERS". I CAN'T PUT MUCH ENERGY INTO THINGS I CAN'T CONTROL.

I CAN PROMISE YOU THIS THOUGH. IF I EVER SEE THE LITTLE GIRL WHO DID THIS TO ME...

...I MIGHT JUST KILL HER, REGARDLESS OF THE CONSEQUENCES.

MOST OF THE X-MEN ~~TAKE~~ APPROPRIATE MAGNETOS ATLANTIAN ISLAND FORTRESS AS THERE HOME FOR THE TIME BEING..

YOU AN' THAT ALIEN SHER DID A NUMBER ON THE MANSION, YOUNG'UN.

SHUT UP, WOLVIE!

STORM AND CYCLOPS STAY BACK IN WESTCHESTER TO FACILITATE THE SCHOOL'S RECONSTRUCTION.

DO YOU WANT YOUR LEADERSHIP POSITION BACK, SCOTT?

HUH?

CORSAIR?

THIS PLACE IS A WRECK. AM I TOO LATE?

EXPLAIN YOURSELF, PIRATE.

REMEMBER LILANDRA? SHE'S BEEN KIDNAPPED AND THE SHI'AR THINK YOU'RE BEHIND IT AS RETALIATION FOR PHOENIX.

THEY'RE THREATENING TO DESTROY YOUR WHOLE PLANET IF SHE'S NOT RECOVERED QUICKLY.

I'M SURPRISED YOU CAME ENOUGH TO WARN US.

WHEN PHOENIX PULLED US INSIDE THE M'KRAAN CRYSTAL SHE WAS RUMMAGING THROUGH MY MIND. MY EARTH NAME WAS CHRISTOPHER SUMMERS. I'M YOUR DAD, SCOTTY.

AS IF ON CUE...

OH NO..

YOU'RE WHO? WHAT?

IT... BURNS... AAH!

SIMULTANEOUSLY, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ATLANTIC. THIS SENSATION IS FAMILIAR TO THE X-MEN.

BEAMED ABOARD THE SHI'AR MOTHERSHIP, THE POLITICIANS REITERATE ~~LILANDRA'S PLIGHT~~ CORSAIR'S TELLING OF LILANDRA'S PLIGHT WITH ONE ADDED PROVISO.

WE HAVE INTERGALACTIC PERMISSION TO DISINTEGRATE YOUR PLANET IF LILANDRA ISN'T RETURNED TO US IN 2 DAYS, EARTH TIME...

IN ORDER FOR THE SHI'AR TO RELEASE THE X-MEN BACK TO EARTH TO RETRIEVE LILANDRA, THE MUTANTS MUST LEAVE BEHIND COLLATERAL.

PHOOEY!

THAT MACHINE CAN CHANGE YOU OUTFIT INSTANTLY? TRY IT ON ME, LIEBCHEN.

THE X-MEN RELY ON THE PSYCHIC RAPPORT THAT CHARLES XAVIER ESTABLISHED WITH LILANDRA TO PINPOINT HER LOCATION.

X-MEN ZAP BACK TO EARTH.

THE CULPRIT, ALIEN ABDUCTORS REAL THEIR UGLY HEADS SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE OF MANHATTAN.

BROOD SWARM

THE BROOD'S UNORTHODOX NATURE TAKES THE X-MEN ABACK..

SLEAZOID!

MANY CITY BLOCKS ~~AND~~ FEEL THE BRUNT OF BATTLE AND A LOT OF INDIRECT TRAUMA RESULTS WITHOUT ~~OF~~ A SMALL HINT AS TO LILANDRA'S WHEREABOUTS.

OUT OF NOWHERE, A DEATHBIRD ~~MAKES~~ DEALS A DEATHBLOW.

ULP

OPEN PANEL

IN THE MELEE, THAT SAME DEATHBIRD ~~ESC~~ ESCAPES, CHARLES XAVIER IN TOW.

CORSAIR TO STARJAMMER...

BEAM US UP...

THE STARJAMMERS PHYSICIAN, SIKORSKY, IS SKILLED WAY BEYOND THE LIMITS OF EARTHLY MEDICAL TREATMENT..

NOT ~~OF~~ OUT OF WOODS YET.

CYCLOPS STILL DOESN'T HAVE A MOMENT TO PROCESS CORSAIR'S PATERNAL NEWS...

NEITHER ARE WE. WHAT IS THAT?

WINDOW

"IT'S THE BROOD'S HOST HEADQUARTERS."

THEM SLEAZOIDS BEST BE READY TO TUSSLE

WE'RE HIT!

THE BATTLE BEGINS SECONDS AFTER THE STARJAMMER CRAFT IS GOBBLED UP.

X-MEN! LILANDRA AND I ARE HERE!

FOLLOW MY INSTRUCTION

X-MEN FIGHTING THE BROOD IN BIG BATTLE

THE X-MEN REENGINEER THE FIGHT INTO BEING A DIVERSION FOR THE SUCCESSFUL RESCUE OF CHARLES XAVIER AND LILANDRA.

DEAD BROOD

DEATHBIRD, WE HAD A DEAL.

SHUT UP. WE'VE DAMAGED THE STARJAMMERS CRAFT ENOUGH TO SLOW THEM DOWN MARKEDLY...

...THERE'S NO WAY THEY'LL BE ABLE TO DELIVER LILANDRA TO YOU ON TIME. YOU'LL STILL HAVE LEGAL AUTHORITY TO KILL THE JAMMERS AND DESTROY EARTH...

PROFESSOR X KNOWS THIS TO BE TRUE AND HE MUST ~~TRY~~ HIS DAMNDEST TO REACH ACROSS SEVERAL LIGHT YEARS WITH HIS MIND TO STOP THE TRAITOROUS PLOT AGAINST ALL HE HOLDS DEAR.

KITTY

NIGHTCRAWLER

KITTY! NIGHTCRAWLER!

KITTY PUTS THE LITTLE SHI'AR GARMENT MACHINE TO STRATEGIC USE.

THAT'S GENIUS, PROFESSOR. HOW DO I LOOK?

ARE YOU READY, KITTEN?

HAVE HER HOLD GIZMO.

FIRST THEY TELEPORT TO THE ~~MATHOGCHIRS~~ STERN WALK...

YES, PRAY TO YOUR GODS!

SIM

BAMF!

THE ~~SE~~ GRUNTS IN THE BOILER COME NEXT...

YOU DID THIS TO ME!

BAMF!

LASTLY, THE NAVIGATING BRIDGE OF THE SHI'AR MOTHERSHIP FALL VICTIM TO THE SPECTER OF...

DARK PHOENIX!

RISEN FROM THE ASHES! HA HA HA HA...

BAMF

UNREST AND PANIC SPREADS THROUGH THE VESSELL LIKE AN AGGRESSIVE DISEASE.

HAHA.. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.

WHAT A GIZMO.

LILANDRA ARRIVES HOME TO AN ARMY OF SHI'AR WHO SURELY WELCOME A BOOST TO MORALE. EARTH, THE STARJAMMERS, AND X-MEN REMAIN INTACT.

WHERE ARE THOSE DOUBLE-CROSSERS?

MAJESTRIX!

LILANDRA EXITS

LILANDRA FINDS HER ANSWERS AFTER BURSTING INTO THE CAPTAINS QUARTERS

...ONE WAY TO AVOID A COURT MARTIAL.

DEATHBIRD IS OUT THERE...

BACK ON THE STARJAMMER, SIKORSKY HAS BEEN WORKING DAY AND NIGHT.

XAVIER ENDEAVORED BEYOND HIS OWN MENTAL LIMITS. I CAN'T HELP HIM.

ABOVE MY PAY GRADE, I CONFESS.

MY FELLOW AMERICANS, I CONFESS THAT I WAS CLEARLY WRONG ABOUT THE X-MEN...

ON THE FATEFUL DAY WE LOST SENATOR STERN TO A MUTANT TERRORIST, I SUGGESTED THEY WERE DO-GOODERS...

...DECIMATING AN ENTIRE NEW YORK CITY BLOCK TO A SURE SIGN OF THEIR EXTREMIST POINT OF VIEW...

...REMEMBER NAMOR? I FEAR WE NOW HAVE A WHOLE TEAM OF SUB MARINERS TO CONTEND WITH...

STATUE OF LIBERTY SUBMERGED IN WATER

CAROL DANVERS MAY NO LONGER BE A SUPER-HERO, BUT HER SHIELD CREDENTIALS STILL AFFORD HER THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF TOP SECRET CLEARANCE.

BEEP BEEP BEEP

THE PENTAGON

HER COMPATRIOTS DON'T POSSESS THE SAME LUXURY BUT CAROL MAKES SURE THEY LOOK THE PART...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE METAL DETECTORS, BUB.

METAL HIP FROM THE WAR.

THE DOOR OUTSIDE THE MAW COMPUTER HUB OF ALL US. INTELLIGENCE...

COLONEL FURY! I THOUGHT YOU AND COMPUTERS DON'T MIX.

DUTY CALLS. CARRY ON, SOLDIER.

"SOLDIER"? THAT'S A NEW ONE...

HE SMELLS SOUR.

THE OBJECTIVE HERE IN THE BOWELS OF THE PENTAGON IS TO WIPE OUT EVERY SCRAP OF DATA COMPILED ON THE X-MEN FROM THE GOVERNMENT NETWORK.

LET'S GO HOME

100% COMPLETE

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.

I JUST DELETED ALL THE ~~EVERYTHING~~ DIRT THE FEDS HAVE ON US.

PERHAPS 3 PANELS ON BOTTOM LAST ONE CLOSER SHOT OF ILLYANA

THE X-MEN OCCUPY THEIR TIME THE BEST THEY CAN WHILE WAITING FOR WORD ON THE CONDITION OF PROFESSOR X.

THEY THOUGHT IT WOULD BE SAFE HERE FOR ILLYANA TO VISIT.

HUH?

LITTLE BEAUTY. HELLO THERE...

THE X-MEN WERE WRONG.

HEY?

RIGHT THIS WAY, DARLING.

ILLYANA!!

AAAH!

OTHER X-MEN

REFLEXIVELY...

THE GROUND! IT JUST SWALLOWED HER UP!

A PORTAL!

A SILENCE COMES OVER THE ISLAND FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE MAGNETO RESURRECTED THE STRUCTURE.

I CONFESS, MY VISION DID NOT EXTEND INTO LIMBO DURING THIS ENCOUNTER...

IT SEEMED LIKE THE X-MEN WERE ONLY GONE FOR SECONDS...

ILLYANA RASPUTIN WAS THE LAST TO EMERGE FROM BELASCO'S MIDDLE-WORLD.

COLOSSUS HOLDING ILLYANA'S HAND WHILE EXITING PORTAL

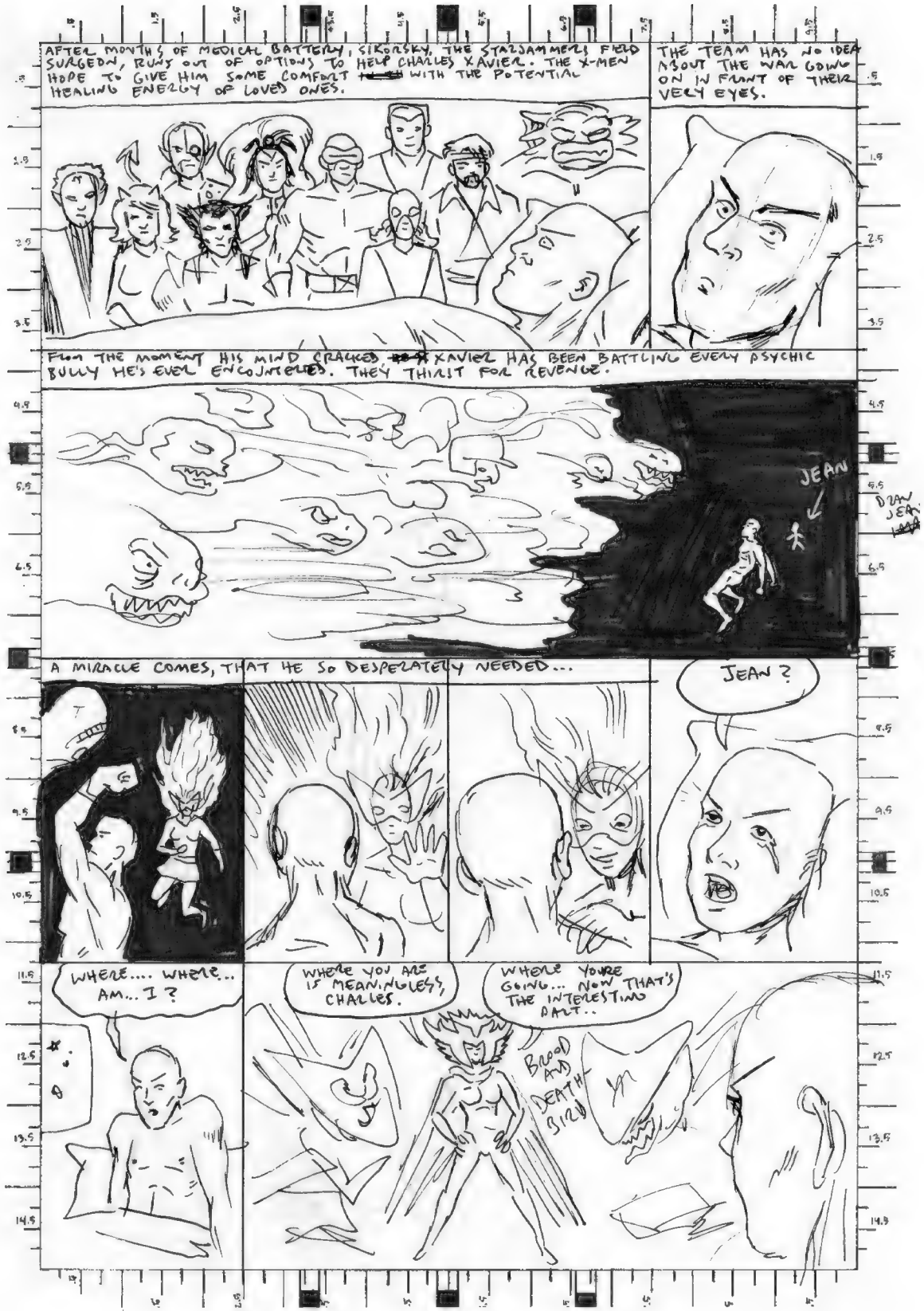
SOMETHING CLEARLY HAPPENED INSIDE THAT PORTAL BEYOND OUR CURRENT UNDERSTANDING OF SPACE AND TIME.

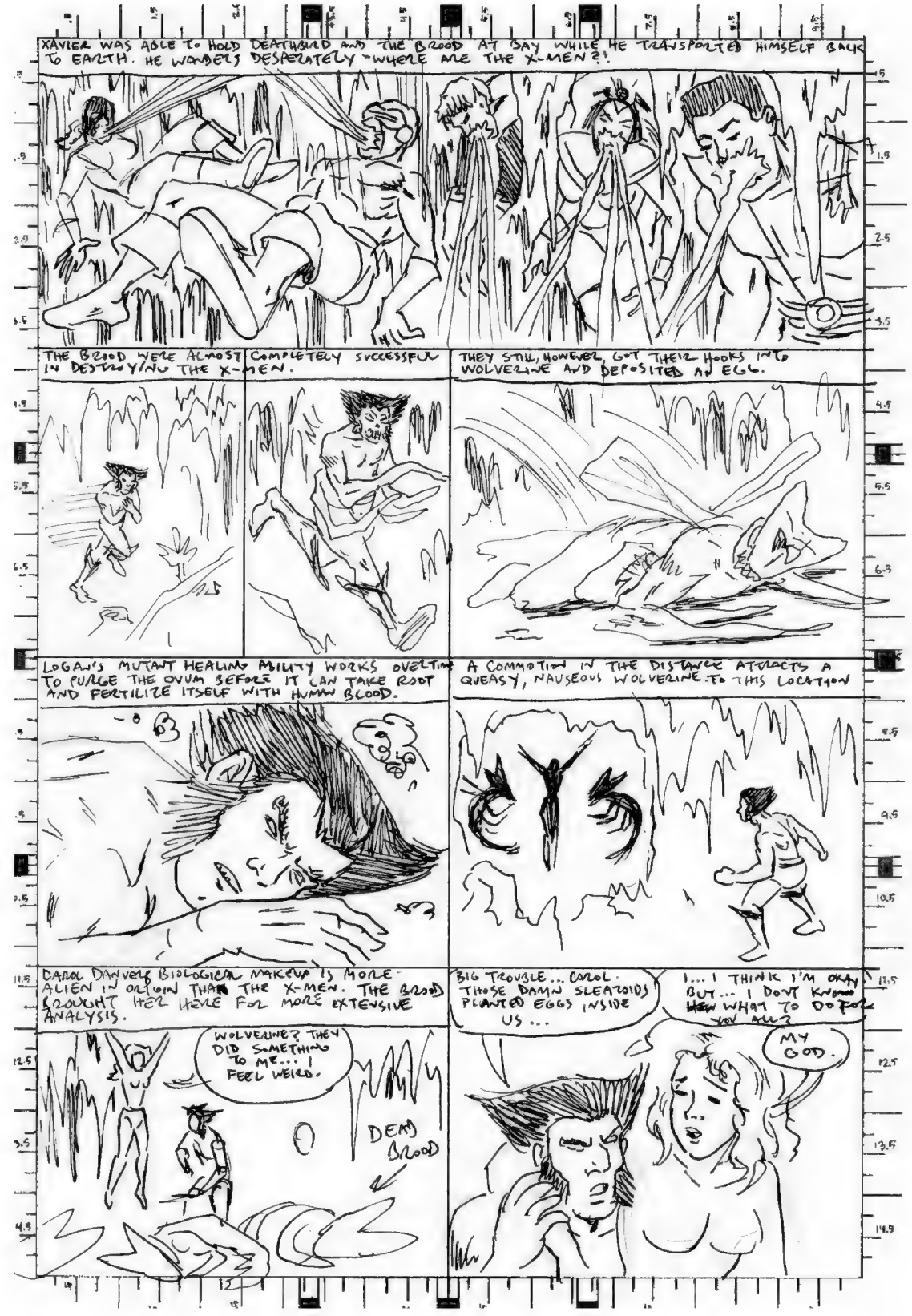
~~YOU~~ ~~YOU MUST BE~~ ~~RATTY'S~~ ~~ROSE~~ ILLYANA?

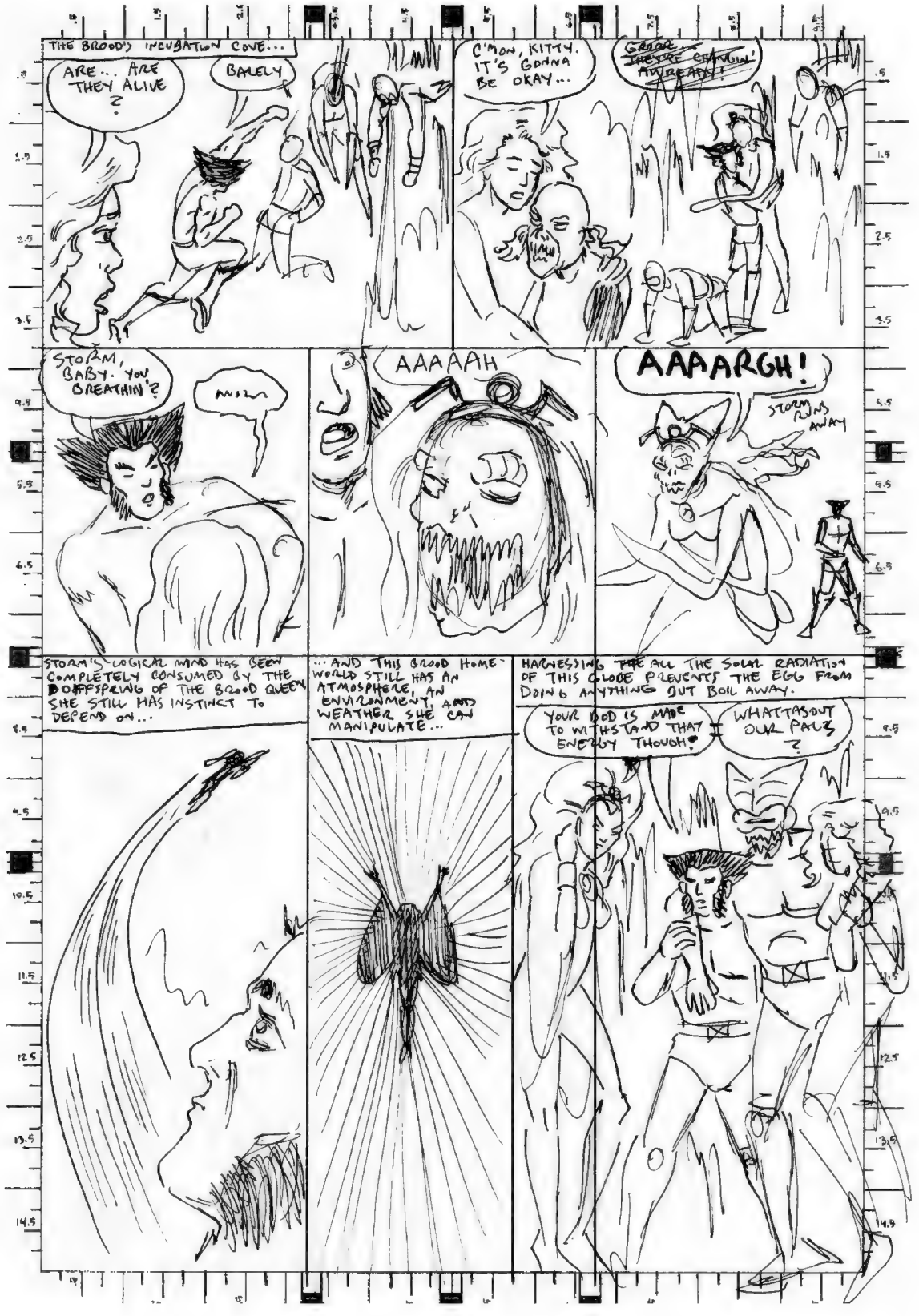
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?

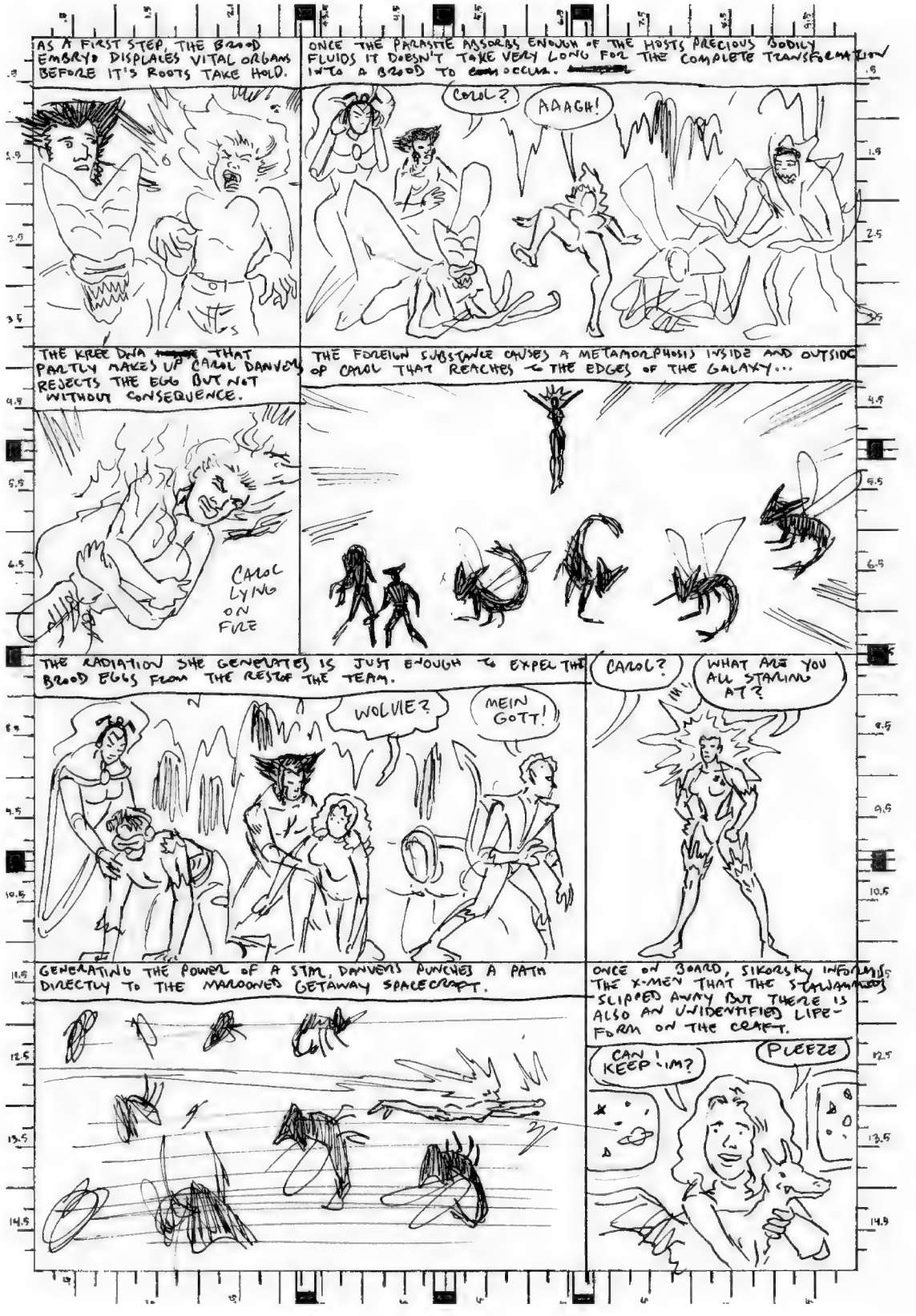
AND, WHY ARE YOU STARING AT ME?

X-MEN IN AWE


AFTER MONTHS OF MEDICAL BATTERY, SIKORSKY, THE STARJAMMERS FIELD SURGEON, RUNS OUT OF OPTIONS TO HELP CHARLES XAVIER. THE X-MEN HOPE TO GIVE HIM SOME COMFORT WITH THE POTENTIAL HEALING ENERGY OF LOVED ONES.
THE TEAM HAS NO IDEA ABOUT THE WAR GOING ON IN FRONT OF THEIR VERY EYES.
FROM THE MOMENT HIS MIND CRACKED XAVIER HAS BEEN BATTLING EVERY PSYCHIC BULLY HE'S EVER ENCOUNTERED. THEY THIRST FOR REVENGE.
JEAN
A MIRACLE COMES, THAT HE SO DESPERATELY NEEDED...
JEAN ?
WHERE.... WHERE... AM... I ?
WHERE YOU ARE IS MEANINGLESS, CHARLES.
WHERE YOURE GOING... NOW THAT'S THE INTERESTING PART..
BLOOD AND DEATH BIRD


XAVIER WAS ABLE TO HOLD DEATHBIRD AND THE BROOD AT BAY WHILE HE TRANSPORTED HIMSELF BACK TO EARTH. HE WONDERS DESPERATELY - WHERE ARE THE X-MEN?!
THE BROOD WERE ALMOST COMPLETELY SUCCESSFUL IN DESTROYING THE X-MEN.
THEY STILL, HOWEVER, GOT THEIR HOOKS INTO WOLVERINE AND DEPOSITED AN EGG.
LOGAN'S MUTANT HEALING ABILITY WORKS OVERTIME TO PURGE THE OVUM BEFORE IT CAN TAKE ROOT AND FERTILIZE ITSELF WITH HUMAN BLOOD.
A COMMOTION IN THE DISTANCE ATTRACTS A QUEASY, NAUSEOUS WOLVERINE TO THIS LOCATION
CAROL DANVERS BIOLOGICAL MAKEUP IS MORE ALIEN IN ORIGIN THAN THE X-MEN. THE BROOD BROUGHT HER HERE FOR MORE EXTENSIVE ANALYSIS.
WOLVERINE? THEY DID SOMETHING TO ME... I FEEL WEIRD.
DEAD BROOD
BIG TROUBLE... CAROL. THOSE DAMN SLEAZOIDS PLANTED EGGS INSIDE US...
I... I THINK I'M OKAY BUT... I DONT KNOW WHAT TO DO FOR YOU ALL?
MY GOD.


THE BROOD'S INCUBATION COVE...
ARE... ARE THEY ALIVE ?
BARELY
C'MON, KITTY. IT'S GONNA BE OKAY...
GRROR THEY'RE CHANGIN' AN'READY!
STORM, BABY. YOU BREATHIN'?
MMM
AAAAAH
AAAARGH!
STORM RUNS AWAY
STORM'S LOGICAL MIND HAS BEEN COMPLETELY CONSUMED BY THE OFFSPRING OF THE BROOD QUEEN SHE STILL HAS INSTINCT TO DEPEND ON...
...AND THIS BROOD HOME-WORLD STILL HAS AN ATMOSPHERE, AN ENVIRONMENT, AND WEATHER SHE CAN MANIPULATE...
HARNESSING THE ALL THE SOLAR RADIATION OF THIS GLOBE PREVENTS THE EGG FROM DOING ANYTHING BUT BOIL AWAY.
YOUR BOD IS MADE TO WITHSTAND THAT ENERGY THOUGH!
WHATTABOUT OUR PALS ?


AS A FIRST STEP, THE BROOD EMBRYO DISPLACES VITAL ORGANS BEFORE IT'S ROOTS TAKE HOLD.
ONCE THE PARASITE ABSORBS ENOUGH OF THE HOSTS PRECIOUS BODILY FLUIDS IT DOESN'T TAKE VERY LONG FOR THE COMPLETE TRANSFORMATION INTO A BROOD TO OCCUR.
CAROL?
AAAGH!
THE KREE DNA THAT PARTLY MAKES UP CAROL DANVERS REJECTS THE EGG BUT NOT WITHOUT CONSEQUENCE.
THE FOREIGN SUBSTANCE CAUSES A METAMORPHOSIS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF CAROL THAT REACHES TO THE EDGES OF THE GALAXY...
CAROL LYING ON FIRE
THE RADIATION SHE GENERATES IS JUST ENOUGH TO EXPEL THE BROOD EGGS FROM THE REST OF THE TEAM.
CAROL?
WHAT ARE YOU ALL STARING AT?
WOLVIE?
MEIN GOTT!
GENERATING THE POWER OF A STAR, DANVERS PUNCHES A PATH DIRECTLY TO THE MAROONED GETAWAY SPACECRAFT.
ONCE ON BOARD, SIKORSKY INFORMS THE X-MEN THAT THE STARWAMPERS SLIPPED AWAY BUT THERE IS ALSO AN UNIDENTIFIED LIFE-FORM ON THE CRAFT.
CAN I KEEP 'IM?
PLEEZE

ITS BEEN MONTHS SINCE THE X-MEN HAVE BEEN HOME. ENOUGH TIME HAS PASSED FOR THE X-MANSION TO BE COMPLETELY REBUILT, ~~AND ENOUGH TIME FOR A NEW CLASS OF~~

A SPACESHIP?

IN THESE MONTHS A NEW CLASS OF STUDENTS HAVE MADE THEMSELVES AT HOME. ALLOWING THE X-MEN NAME TO REST IN PEACE, THEY'RE AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS THE NEW MUTANTS.

COLLY

WOW, THE PROFESSOR IS GONNA BE SO HAPPY. HE THOUGHT YOU WERE ALL...

SPEAKING OF THE PROFESSOR WE NEED TO SEE HIM RIGHT AWAY!

NEW MUTANTS

X-MEN

FACING EACH OTHER OUTSIDE

HE HASN'T COME OUT OF HIS STUDY FOR A LONG TIME...

"WE WANTED TO GIVE HIM PLENTY OF SPACE TO GRIEVE."

SNIFF SNIFF

A SLEAZOID !!

THE X-MEN AND NEW MUTANTS FIGHT BACK THEIR TEARS WITH THE SAME EFFORT AS THEY FIGHT THEIR TEACHER.

X-MEN BATTLE BROOD

WOLVERINE IS, OF COURSE, LESS SENTIMENTAL THAN THE REST.

KILL ME...

KILL ME, LOGAN

THE X-MEN HAVE NO HOPE ON EARTH TO SAVE PROFESSOR X.

HAS SIKORSKY EVER DONE THIS BEFORE, DAD? HE'S... IMPORTANT TO ME.

RED TINT

THE REST OF THE SHIA IS RECEIVING POWER AGAIN...

THE SURGERY MUST BE COMPLETE.

SPIDERMAN

IT TOOK SEVERAL DAYS TO DELICATELY TRANSPLANT XAVIER'S BRAIN INTO A CLONE BODY OF SIMILAR CONSTITUTION.

PROFESSOR! DOES IT FEEL WEIRD?

I'LL TAKE THIS OVER THE ALTERNATIVE OPTION.

WHOA.

DON'T OVERDO IT, CHARLES...

WHO'S... WATCHING OVER... THE NEW MUTANTS?

EARTH. ALASKA. DAYS LATER. IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A PEACEFUL REUNION...

A PLANE CRASH? YOU NEVER MENTIONED THIS BEFORE.

IT HURTS TO THINK ABOUT.

MADELYNE REVEALS THE DATE SHE BECAME THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF A TERRIBLE CALAMITY...

WHY ARE YOU SO QUIET, SCOTT. YOU HAVE NO QUESTIONS? NOTHING TO SAY?

THAT'S... ALSO THE DAY WE HAD A CRASH OURSELVES. THE DAY JEAN AND PHOENIX MERGED AS ONE...

WARREN WORTHINGTON SENT OUT A PSYCHIC SOS TO PROFESSOR XAVIER, WHO IN TURN RELAYED A MESSAGE TO NIGHTCRAWLER, WHO, FORTUITOUSLY WAS BLOCKS AWAY IN MANHATTAN ON A DATE.

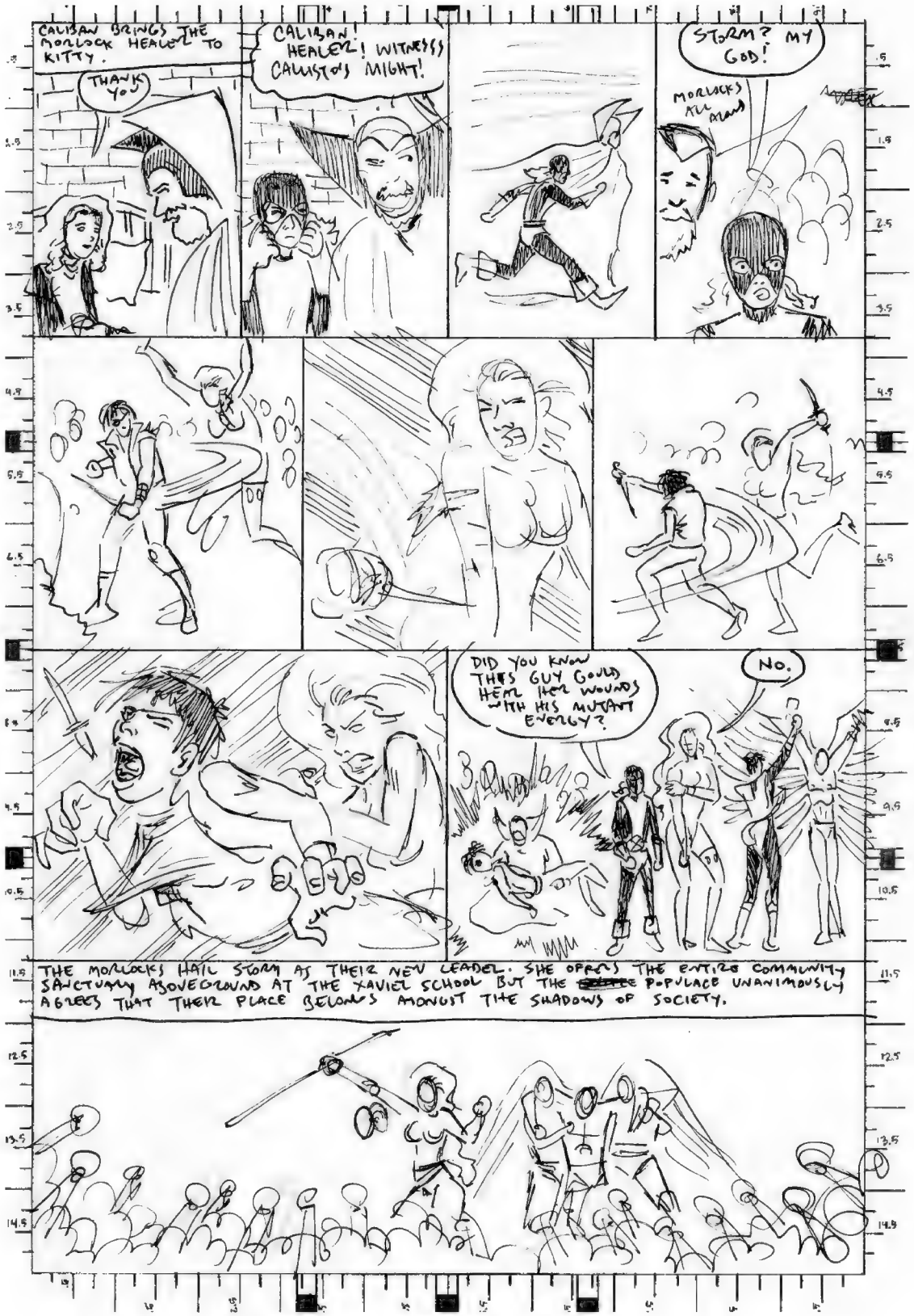
C'MON, ANGEL MEIN FRIEND..

WHERE DID THEY TAKE YOU?

PROFESSOR, ARE YOU SEEING THIS.

BACKUP IS ON THE WAY. PROCEED NO FURTHER WITHOUT HELP.

IN A LONG-THOUGHT ABANDONED LABYRINTH OF TUNNELS UNDERNEATH MANHATTAN THE X-MEN ~~ARE OVER~~ DISCOVER A SOCIETY OF MUTANT OUTCAST WHO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AS MORLOCKS.
X-MEN FIGHTING THE MORLOCKS IN THE ALLEY
KITTY IS UNTOUCHABLE IN BATTLE, BUT THE POOR GIRL MUST STILL BREATHE.
KOFF KOFF
~~THE~~ THIS BIOLOGICAL NEED FOR OXYGEN INTRODUCES A PLAGUE UPON HER PHYSIOLOGY.
HA HA
UGH!
KATYA!
CALIBAN LOVES YOU, GIRL CREATURE...
IN CALIBAN'S PRIVATE DORMATORY
PLEASE... KOFF... HELP... KOFF... MY FRIENDS.
MANNY CALIBAN, YES? I HELP THEM.
CALLISTO, THE MORLOCK'S LEADER FRANKLY STATES HER BUSINESS WHEN THE DUST SETTLES...
I WONT LIVE FOREVER, MY SUBJECTS! YOU ARE DESERVE MY HEIR TO SERVE YOU WHEN THE TIME COMES! DO YOU NOT?
THIS HANDSOME BLOKE WON'T NEED TO FLY THE FRIENDLY SKIES ANY LONGER. HA HA...
STOP!
YOU'RE MAIMING HIM!!
~~THE OL~~ STORM QUICKLY REALIZES THAT RESPECT AND FEAR IS THE ONLY CURRENCY AMONGST THIS CULTURE...
AS LEADER OF THE X-MEN...
I CHALLENGE YOU TO A DUEL TO THE DEATH! AFRAID, CALLISTO?
MORLOCKS
MORLOCKS


CALIBAN BRINGS THE MORLOCK HEALER TO KITTY.
THANK YOU
CALIBAN! HEALER! WITNESS CALLISTO'S MIGHT!
STORM? MY GOD!
MORLOCKS ALL ALONG
DID YOU KNOW THIS GUY COULD HEAL HER WOUNDS WITH HIS MUTANT ENERGY?
No.
THE MORLOCKS HAIL STORM AS THEIR NEW LEADER. SHE OFFERS THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY SANCTUARY ABOVEGROUND AT THE XAVIER SCHOOL BUT THE ~~PEOPLE~~ POPULACE UNANIMOUSLY AGREES THAT THEIR PLACE BELONGS AMONGST THE SHADOWS OF SOCIETY.

DING DONG DING DONG
THE DOOR-BELL?
HOW? THE GATE IS STILL LOCKED OUT FRONT. WHO'D BE AT OUR...
"DOOR.."
I... I NEED HELP
AAAH
ROGUE!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HURT MS. CAROL?!
DON'T STEP ONE FOOT CLOSER TO THE NEW MUTANTS...
WOLFSBANE
STAND DOWN, CHILDREN...
I'VE BEEN EXPECTING ROGUE. SHE NEEDS US
OOPS! NO WHEEL CHAIR
X-MEN, NEW MUTANTS ALL AROUND
NO WOLVERINE
WOLFSBANE TURNS HUMAN AGAIN
ROGUE?
A NORMAL HUMAN WOULD HAVE BEEN DECAPITATED FROM CAROL'S NUCLEAR UPPERCUT...
PROFESSOR X EXPLAINS WHAT HE'S GLEANED FROM ROGUES REGRETFUL PSYCHE.
IT SEEMS YOU'VE MADE UP YOUR MIND, CHARLES. GOOD-BYE. THANKS FOR EVERYTHING.
BINARY
MORE X-MEN AND NEW MUTANTS
PLEASE COME BACK ROGUE. I APOLOGIZE. ARE YOU OKAY?
PROFESSOR?

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA...
PROFESSOR, WERE YOU ABLE TO UNCOVER ANYTHING ABOUT MADELYNE? ALL THESE COINCIDENCES...
THAT'S ALL THEY ARE, SCOTT.
ALLOW YOURSELF SOME HAPPINESS, SON. LOVE THE GIRL. LOVE HER LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW. WE ONLY LIVE ONCE, AFTER ALL...
UNLESS YOU'RE A PHOENIX...
TOKYO, JAPAN...
I FIGGERED, WHY NOT HAVE THE WEDDIN' NOW BEFORE WE GOTTA SAVE THE UNIVERSE AGAIN.
THANKS FER COMIN'.
TOKYO CITYSCAPE OR MAYBE CLOSEUP OF WOLVERINE'S HAPPY FACE.
SNIFF SNIFF
CARRYING LUGGAGE
WHO ELSE IS TAGGIN' ALONG?
OUR NEWEST "PROBATIONARY" MEMBER. DON'T BE SHY, GIRL.
UM... HI
WHAT?
WHO NEXT? MAGNETO?
RIGHT AFTER LOGAN'S FIANCEE, MARIKO YASHIDA, TAKES HER DISSAPPOINTED GAZE OFF OF HIM.
ROGUE AS A GUEST OF OURS PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE..
I HOPE YOUR STAY HERE IS ENJOYABLE...

AS THE NIGHT CARRIES FOREWARD, THE TEA AND SAKE FLOWS CONTINUOUSLY, WHILE THE X-MEN FINALLY GET TO BOND OVER A HAPPY OCCASION.

I FEEL... DIZZY.

THAT BETTER BE TEA IN YOUR CUP, YOUNG LADY

STORM

X-MEN IN JAPANESE APARTMENT PARTYIN'.

KITTY DROPS CUP

NONE OF THEM WILL REMEMBER PARTY ANYWAY BUT HAZILY.

WOLVERINE'S HEALING FACTOR AND ROGUE'S MUTANT STRENGTH PULL THEM FROM THE CHEMICALLY INDUCED COMA IN UNDER A HALF HOUR.

UGH...

ROGUE

AN AMBULANCE IS CALLED FOR THE REST OF THE TEAM BUT THE HEAD COUNT IS OFF...

MARIKO...

ROGUE

HE TOOK HER... BASTARD...

QUITE ACCURATELY, WOLVERINE KNEW THAT MARIKO'S HALF BROTHER WAS BEHIND THE PLOT. IF THE MARRIAGE WAS TO PROCEED, WOLVERINE WOULD BE ENTITLED TO WHAT SILVER SAMURAI FEELS IS HIS BIRTHRIGHT. THE FAMILY'S CORPORATION...

SILVER SAMURAI FIGHTING WOLVERINE.

MAYBE MARIKO IN BACKGROUND

WHILE THE TWO WARRIORS TEAR EACH OTHER TO PIECES...

ROGUE?

I'M GETTIN' YOU OUTTA HERE, SUGAH!

THE YAKUZA STANDS TO BENEFIT FROM FROM SILVER SAMURAI'S STRONGHOLD ON THE BUSINESS EMPIRE OF HIS FATHER'S.

MARIKO! GET DOWN!

AAARGH!

MARIKO FALLS DOWN

THE BLAST WAS JUST THE DIVERSION SILVER SAMURAI NEEDED TO DISSAPEAR AND REGROUP FOR A LATER STRIKE.

SHE'S SLIPPIN' AWAY, LOGAN!

BLOOD

GO-- GET -IM, WOLVIE

AW, SHUDDUP, NERD.

BITING GLOVE OFF

YOU KNOW THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIX THIS, ... LEAKING, KID

DONT

ROGUE IS COMPLETELY PATCHED UP WITHIN SECONDS AFTER ABSORBING WOLVERINE'S MUTANT HEALING FACTOR.

BEING A BIT OLDER, LOGAN'S OWN HEALING FACTOR TAKES SLIGHTLY LONGER TO DO ITS JOB.

WILL HE BE OKAY?

I HOPE SO.

DAMN, THAT STUNG.

WHATCHA STARIN' AT, KID?

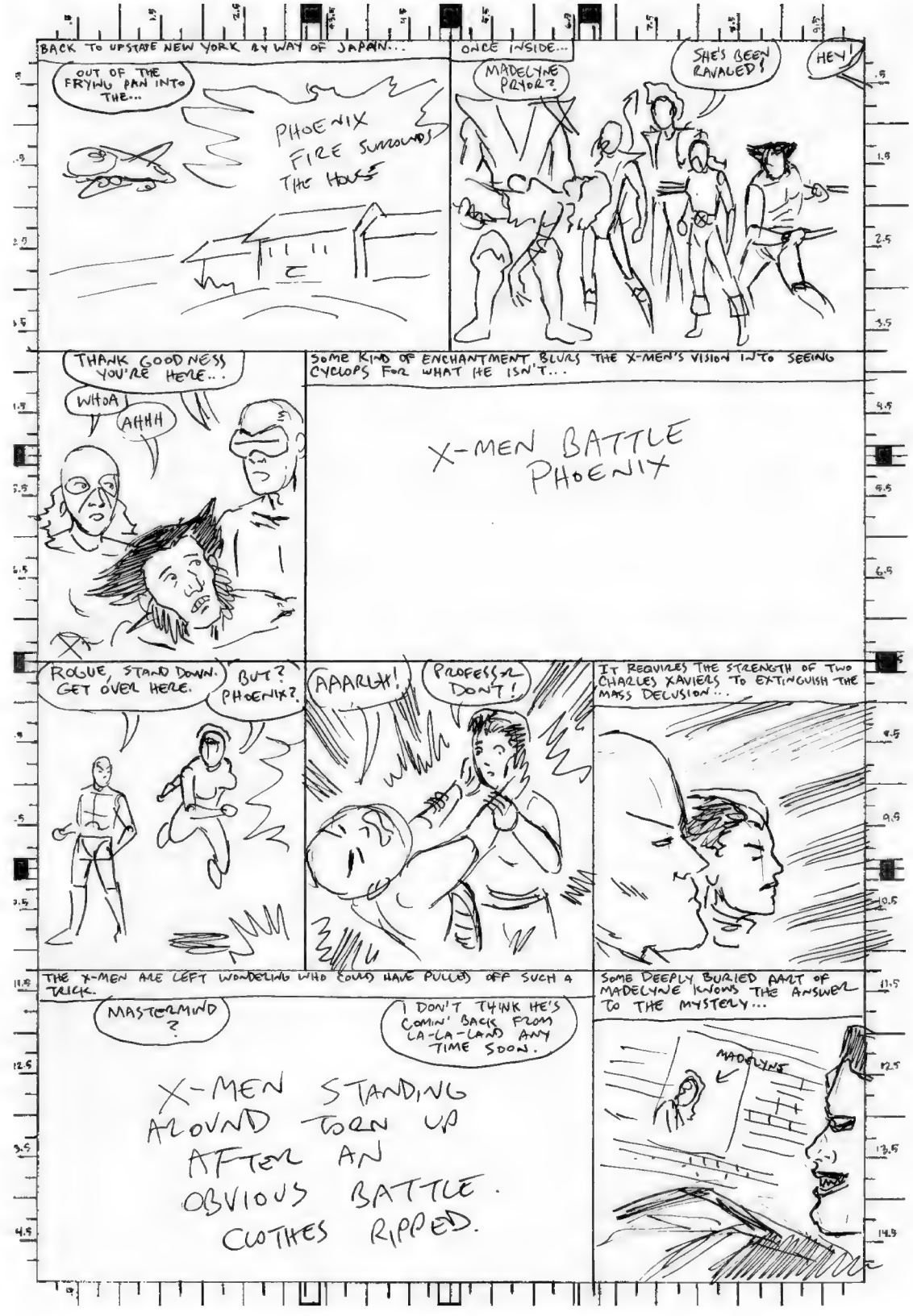
I'M KINDA WONDERIN' IF CLAWS ARE GONNA POP OUTTA MUH MITTS?

THE NEXT DAY THE REST OF THE X-MEN RECEIVE CLEAN BILLS OF HEALTH AND DISCOVER MARIKO CALLED OFF THE WEDDING...

I REFUSE TO BRING THE DISHONOR OF MY FAMILY NAME UPON YOU UNTIL I CORRECT OUR PAST MISTAKES.

MY BROTHER WILL NEVER STOP ...

ACROSS THE GLOBE BACK AT XAVIER MANSION, PROSPECTS OF A NEW MARRIAGE BEGIN IN THE WAKE OF WOLVERINE'S ~~WEDDING~~. LET DOWN.
YES!
THE WEIRDNESS ONLY SEEMS TO ESCALATE FOR SCOTT, ~~THEIR~~. AFTERWARD...
WHERE DID THIS COME FROM?
WHEN ~~SCOTT~~ HE SHOULD BE AT HIS HAPPIEST...
SCOTT? WHAT IS IT?
ARE YOU THE REINCARNATION OF JEAN GREY?
ARE YOU THE PHOENIX?
MADDY! I'M BLIND WITHOUT MY GLASSES..
MISS ME, SLIM?
THIS SICK MAN HAS BEEN TORMENTING CYCLOPS SINCE THEIR DAYS AT THE ORPHANAGE. HIS MASTERPIECE IS PLAYING OUT BEFORE HIM AS HE WATCHES FROM THE LAWN OF THE SCHOOL...
THAT'S MY GIRL. HAHA


BACK TO UPSTATE NEW YORK BY WAY OF JAPAN...
OUT OF THE FRYING PAN INTO THE...
PHOENIX FIRE SURROUNDS THE HOUSE
ONCE INSIDE...
MADELYNE PRYOR?
SHE'S BEEN RAVAGED!
HEY!
THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE HERE...
WHOA!
AHHH
SOME KIND OF ENCHANTMENT BLURS THE X-MEN'S VISION INTO SEEING CYCLOPS FOR WHAT HE ISN'T...
X-MEN BATTLE PHOENIX
ROGUE, STAND DOWN. GET OVER HERE.
BUT? PHOENIX?
AAARGH!
PROFESSOR DON'T!
IT REQUIRES THE STRENGTH OF TWO CHARLES XAVIERS TO EXTINGUISH THE MASS DELUSION...
THE X-MEN ARE LEFT WONDERING WHO COULD HAVE PULLED OFF SUCH A TRICK.
MASTERMIND?
I DON'T THINK HE'S COMIN' BACK FROM LA-LA-LAND ANY TIME SOON.
X-MEN STANDING AROUND TORN UP AFTER AN OBVIOUS BATTLE. CLOTHES RIPPED.
SOME DEEPLY BURIED PART OF MADELYNE KNOWS THE ANSWER TO THE MYSTERY...
MADELYNE

THE THING SCOTT SUMMERS HATES MOST ABOUT HIMSELF IS THAT HE'D RATHER HAVE A PHOENIX-POLLUTED JEAN GREY THAN TO ADMIT THAT SHE IS SIMPLY GONE...

JEAN GREY

AS AN ACT OF SELF DEFENSE, CYCLOPS ADORNS THE VENEER OF A HAPPY MAN BEGINNING A NEW PHASE OF LIFE...

SCOTT AND MADELYNE AT WEDDING WITH TONS FANFARE AND FAMILIAL FACES

DARPA...

WORD HAS COME DOWN FROM NICK FURY AT SHIELD HQ...

DARPA HQ

FORGE, FORMERLY OF STARK INDUSTRIES IS HOLDING ONTO A BREAKTHROUGH TECHNOLOGY IN THE FIELD OF MUTANT NEUTRALIZATION...

...THE UNSTABLE MOLECULES EMITTED FROM A SINGLE BLAST WILL RENDER A MUTANT'S SPECIAL ABILITIES IMPOTENT...

THE PRESIDENT REQUIRES US TO FIRST, OBTAIN THE WEAPON FROM FORGE AT ANY COST...

...AND WE ARE PERMITTED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER TO USE IT ON THIS MUTANT TERRORIST POSSIBLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE ASSASINATION OF SENATOR STERN.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, RAVEN DALKHOLME, IS CHOSEN TO CHARM THE WEAPON FROM FORGE...

BASTARDS..

I'LL DIE BEFORE THEY USE THAT WEAPON ON MY BABY...

WHENEVER THERE IS TOO MUCH DOWNTIME THE X-MEN ARE CONDITIONED TO INCREASE THEIR PERCEPTION. THEY KNOW THE CALM WON'T LAST FOREVER...

THE THIN BLUE LINE
EDDIE MORRIS

I THOUGHT IT WAS GONNA BE LIKE HILL STREET BLUES.

IT WAS STILL GOOD, NO?

UNFORTUNATELY KITTY PRYDE IS STILL LEARNING STAGE. SHE DOESN'T PHASE BEFORE METAL MEETS SKULL.

DOWN, KATYA!

OW!

THE GIRL IS KNOCKED OUT COLD BEFORE COLOSSUS REACHES WHITE-HOT TEMPERATURES...

AVALANCHE! THE LIQUID NITROGEN! NOW!!

IN AN INSTANT COLOSSUS ALMOST REACHES ABSOLUTE ZERO...

THE MOLECULAR REACTION INSIDE OF PETER RASPUTIN HAPPENS RIGHT AWAY. WHEN THE X-MEN ARRIVE HIS HEART IS BEATING, BUT THEY FEAR COLOSSUS WILL CRUMBLE IF THEY TOUCH HIM.

WHERE'S KITTY?

WHO DID THIS?

STORM

NIGHT CLAW

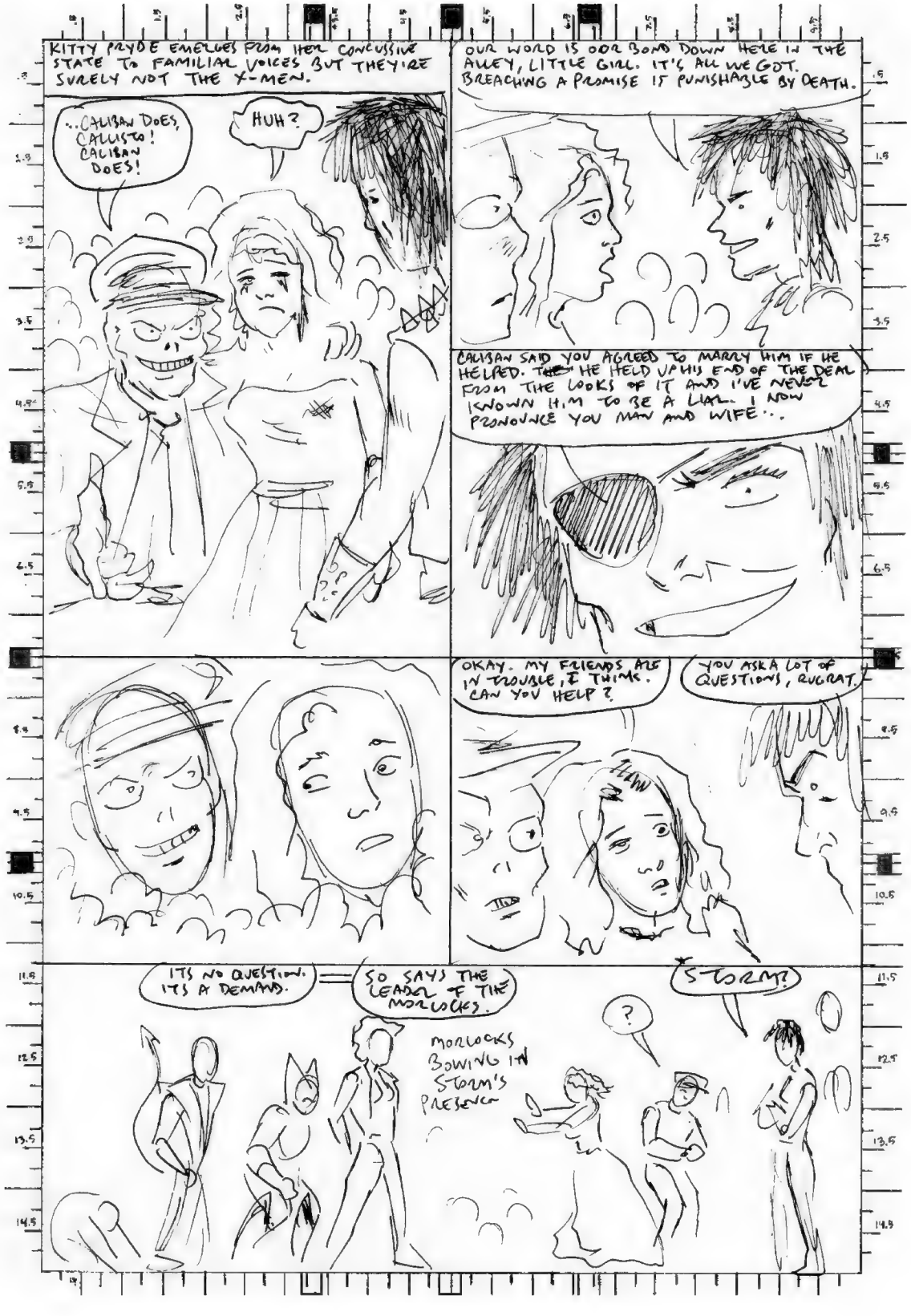
THE MANHATTAN ATTACK WAS MERELY A DIVERSION TO DRIVE THE X-MEN FROM THE MANSION.

PLEASE, PUT THE GUN DOWN, MOMMA...

ROGUE... THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT ARE LOOKING FOR YOU. I DON'T THINK XAVIER CAN KEEP YOU SAFE...

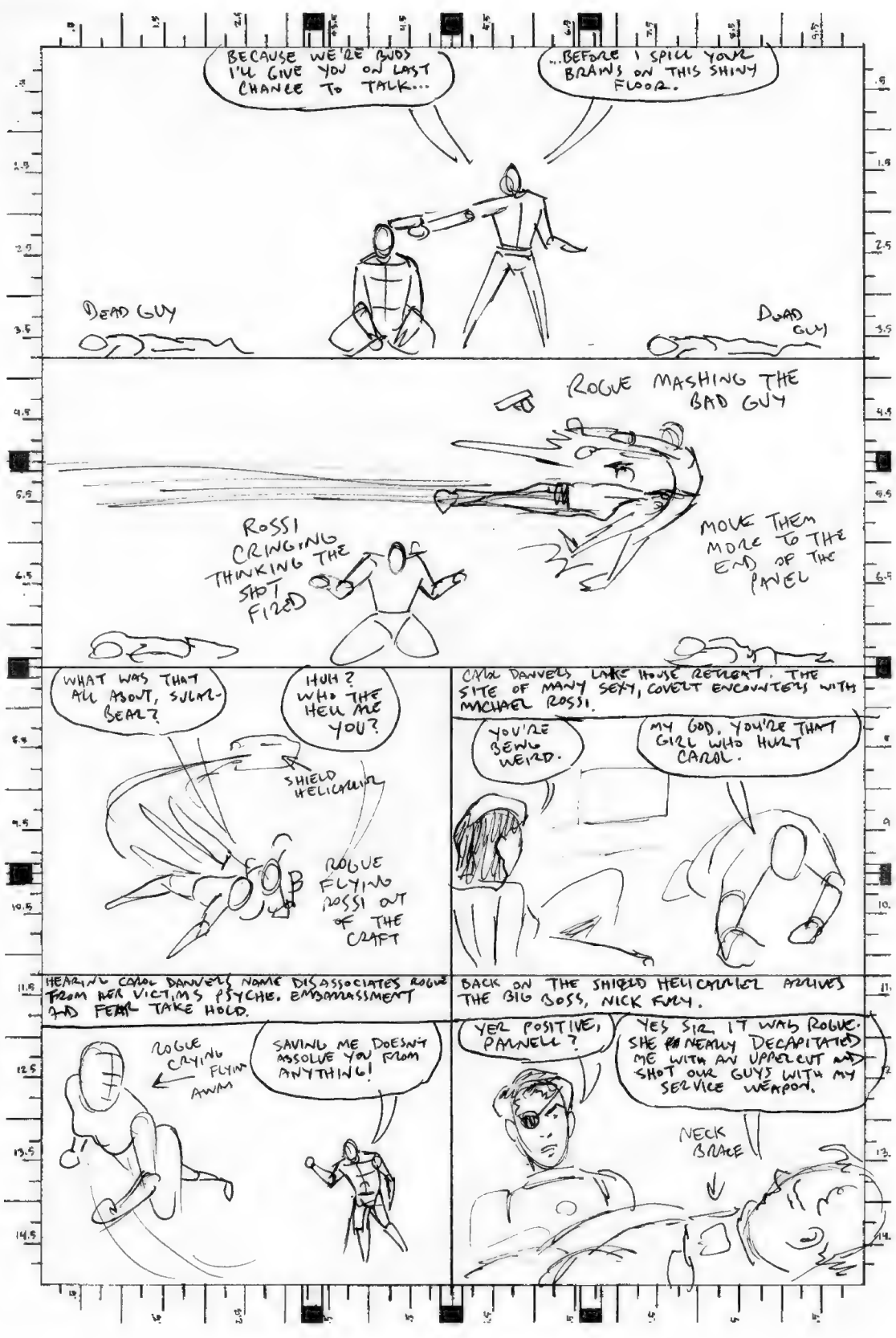
MOMMA, I HURT ALOT OF PEOPLE FOR YOU AND MY POWERS ARE OUT OF CONTROL. THE PROFESSOR IS CALMING THE VOICES IN MY HEAD...

YOU HAVE TO LET ME BE, MOMMA OR I MIGHT JUS' END UP KILLING MYSELF.

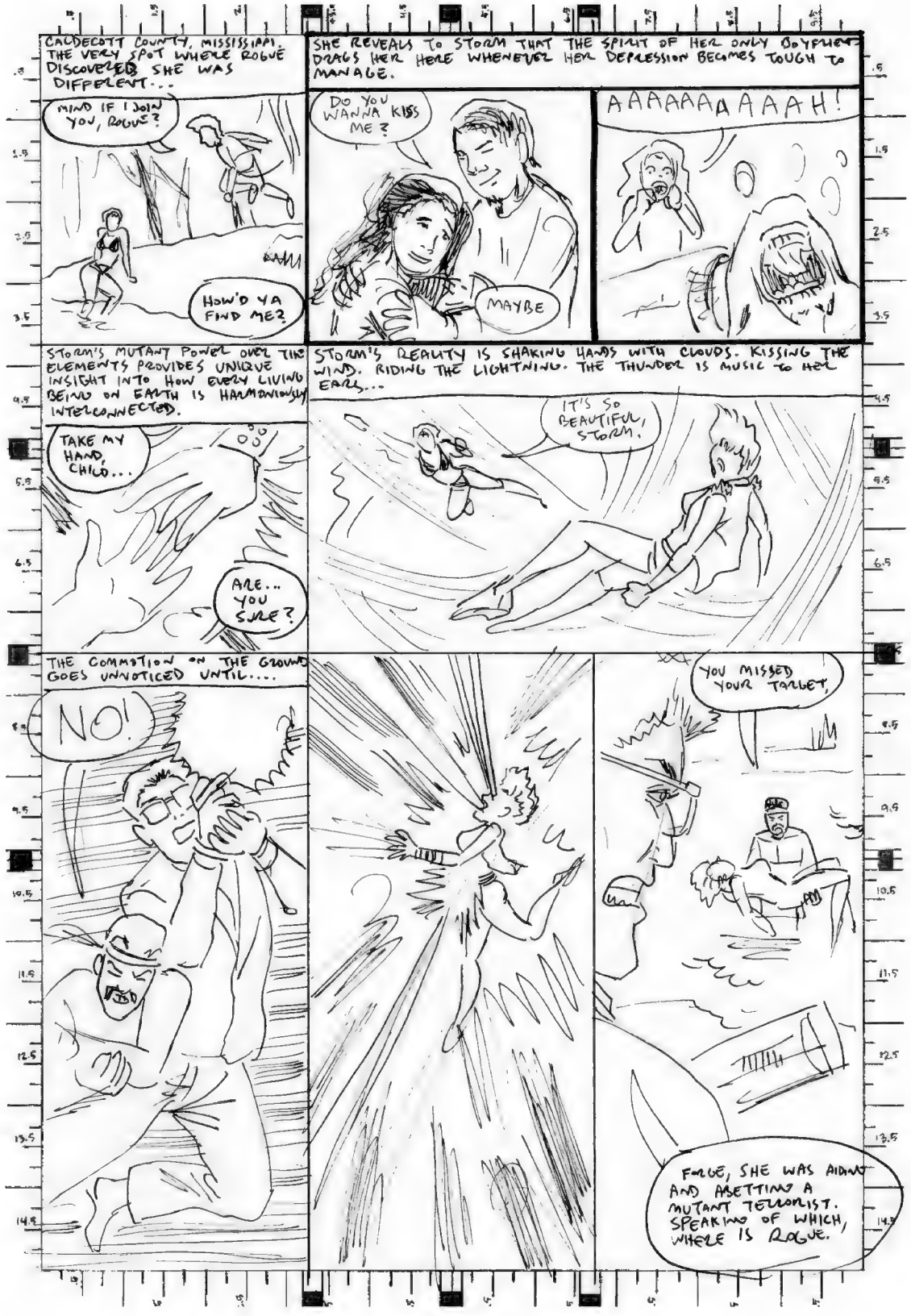

KITTY PRYDE EMERGES FROM HER CONCUSSIVE STATE TO FAMILIAR VOICES BUT THEY'RE SURELY NOT THE X-MEN.
..CALIBAN DOES, CALLISTO! CALIBAN DOES!
HUH?
OUR WORD IS OUR BOND DOWN HERE IN THE ALLEY, LITTLE GIRL. IT'S ALL WE GOT. BREACHING A PROMISE IS PUNISHABLE BY DEATH.
CALIBAN SAID YOU AGREED TO MARRY HIM IF HE HELPED. ~~THE~~ HE HELD UP HIS END OF THE DEAL FROM THE LOOKS OF IT AND I'VE NEVER KNOWN HIM TO BE A LIAR. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE..
OKAY. MY FRIENDS ARE IN TROUBLE, I THINK. CAN YOU HELP?
YOU ASK A LOT OF QUESTIONS, RUGRAT.
ITS NO QUESTION. ITS A DEMAND.
SO SAYS THE LEADER OF THE MORLOCKS.
MORLOCKS BOWING IN STORM'S PRESENCE
?
STORM?

I WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR YOU, ~~MY LEADER~~, BUT THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO FOR HIM IN THIS STATE.
HEALER, YOU ARE OUR LAST HOPE.
NO HE ISN'T.
EVERYONE LOOKING
COLOSSUS BACK TO HUMAN
ROGUE TURNS TO STONE
NOW, THIS IS SOMETHING I CAN MANAGE.
YOU GOOD NOW, BOY?
YES.
IT TAKES THE LAST BITS OF WOLVERINES HEALING FACTOR FOR ROGUE TO METABOLIZE WHAT SHE SYPHONED FROM COLOSSUS.
GASP!
NO. MATTER WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PAST, ROGUE...
ROGUE
YOU'VE EARNED YOUR PLACE AMONG THE X-MEN. WITH STRIPES.
CALIBAN? I'M READY TO MAKE GOOD ON WHAT I PROMISED YOU.
NOT KITTEN. YOU DON'T LOOK AT CALIBAN LIKE YOU LOOK AT METAL MAN. YOU STAY WITH HIM OKAY?

THE VESTIGE WOLVERINE'S HEALING FACTOR WITHIN ROGUE ONLY WENT SO FAR. THE REST OF HER RECOVERY IS UP TO HER OWN CONSTITUTION.
BOOP
HMMM.
THE ANSWERING MACHINE SPARKS A WAVE OF STOLEN EMOTION WHEN ROGUE HEARS THE FRANTIC VOICE OF COL. MICHAEL ROSSI OF THE US AIRFORCE. CAROL DANVERS' LOVER.
YOU WERE RIGHT, CHARLES. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEIR GAME IS THOUGH, AARGH!
NEVER HEARD THAT KINDA CONCERN IN SUGAR-BEAR'S VOICE.
?
THE SHIELD HELI-CARRIER..
UGH
OW
ARGH!
SHIELD HELICARRIER
WHATS YER GAME, ROSSI? DON'T YOU REALIZE IT CAN BE PAINFUL WHEN YOU QUESTION THE ORDER OF THINGS?
C'MON PARNELL. COL FURY SAID NO ROUGH STUFF.
RUNNING OUT OF OPTIONS THE COMMANDING OFFICER CONSULTS HIS TRUE SUPERIOR.
YES, SIR. I'M ALONE.
THE "WHY" ISN'T AS IMPORTANT AS THE FACT THAT ROSSI'S SNOOPING INTO MY AFFAIRS...
CHANGE OF ORDERS.
IT'S JUST YOU AND ME NOW, ROSSI. WE'RE BUDS, RIGHT?


BECAUSE WE'RE BUDS I'LL GIVE YOU ON LAST CHANCE TO TALK...
...BEFORE I SPILL YOUR BRAINS ON THIS SHINY FLOOR.
DEAD GUY
DEAD GUY
ROGUE MASHING THE BAD GUY
ROSSI CRINGING THINKING THE SHOT FIRED
MOVE THEM MORE TO THE END OF THE PANEL
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT, SUGAR-BEAR?
HUH? WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
SHIELD HELICARRIER
ROGUE FLYING ROSSI OUT OF THE CRAFT
CAROL DANVERS LAKE HOUSE RETREAT. THE SITE OF MANY SEXY, COVERT ENCOUNTERS WITH MICHAEL ROSSI.
YOU'RE BEING WEIRD.
MY GOD. YOU'RE THAT GIRL WHO HURT CAROL.
HEARING CAROL DANVERS NAME DISASSOCIATES ROGUE FROM HER VICTIMS PSYCHE. EMBARRASSMENT AND FEAR TAKE HOLD.
ROGUE CRYING FLYIN AWAY
SAVING ME DOESN'T ABSOLVE YOU FROM ANYTHING!
BACK ON THE SHIELD HELICARRIER ARRIVES THE BIG BOSS, NICK FURY.
YER POSITIVE, PARNELL?
YES SIR. IT WAS ROGUE. SHE NEARLY DECAPITATED ME WITH AN UPPERCUT AND SHOT OUR GUYS WITH MY SERVICE WEAPON.
NECK BRACE

IN THE GUISE OF RAVEN DARKHOLME, MYSTIQUE REPEATEDLY STALLED ACQUIRING THE ANTI-MUTANT NEUTRALIZER FROM IT'S MANUFACTURING FORGE.
IT WASN'T A PROBLEM. VAL COOPER CHARMED HIS PANTS OFF AND BROUGHT HOME THE BACON.
HENRY!
FORTUITOUS FOR US, BECAUSE WE HAVE VERY CREDIBLE LEADS TO WHERE ROGUE IS HIDING...
GYRICH, THE WEAPON IS UNTESTED. IT MIGHT KILL THE GIRL. ANY EVIDENCE AGAINST HER IS PURELY CIRCUMSTANTIAL
A SHIELD AGENT IS AN EYESAW WITNESS TO THE HELI-CARRIER MURDERS.
IF THIS GIZMO COOKS HER OR SOMETHING, SHE WILL MAKE OUT BETTER THAN IF WE BRING HER IN ALIVE..
MYSTIQUE BEAMS DIRECTLY INTO FORGES LABORATORY USING HIS EMERGENCY HOLOGRAPHIC CHANNEL.
THEY GAVE THEIR WORD THEY NEEDED THE WEAPON TO SIMPLY RUN SOME DIAGNOSTICS.
IT'S THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, FORGE. THEY MAKE THE RULES AS THEY GO ALONG...
I'M LIVID, RAY. TURN ON YOUR GPS AND DON'T LEAVE GYRICH'S SIDE.
I'LL FIND YOU IN TWO SHAKES.
FORGE STAMPING INTO COCKPIT
DO MEA FAVOR, RAVEN.
DON'T STOP ME BEFORE I SHATTER HENRY'S JAW.


CALDECOTT COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI. THE VERY SPOT WHERE ROGUE DISCOVERED SHE WAS DIFFERENT...
MIND IF I JOIN YOU, ROGUE?
HOW'D YA FIND ME?
SHE REVEALS TO STORM THAT THE SPIRIT OF HER ONLY BOYFRIEND DRAGS HER HERE WHENEVER HER DEPRESSION BECOMES TOUGH TO MANAGE.
DO YOU WANNA KISS ME?
MAYBE
AAAAAAAAAAH!
STORM'S MUTANT POWER OVER THE ELEMENTS PROVIDES UNIQUE INSIGHT INTO HOW EVERY LIVING BEING ON EARTH IS HARMONIOUSLY INTERCONNECTED.
STORM'S REALITY IS SHAKING HANDS WITH CLOUDS. KISSING THE WIND. RIDING THE LIGHTNING. THE THUNDER IS MUSIC TO HER EARS...
TAKE MY HAND, CHILD...
ARE... YOU SURE?
IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL, STORM.
THE COMMOTION ON THE GROUND GOES UNNOTICED UNTIL....
NO!
YOU MISSED YOUR TARGET.
FORGE, SHE WAS AIDING AND ABETTING A MUTANT TERRORIST. SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHERE IS ROGUE.

IT TAKES A FEW DAYS FOR CHARLES XAVIER TO ACCEPT REALITY.

...STILL NO SIGN OF STORM?

CEREBRO ISN'T PICKING UP HER UNIQUE SIGNATURE ANYWHERE ON, IN, OR AROUND THE PLANET.

STORM

STORM

ORORO, WAKE UP...

BLACK PANEL

THE US GOVERNMENT WANTED TO KEEP STORM FOR TESTING. FORGE ~~THOUGH~~ DISAGREED, THINKING THE FEDS DID ENOUGH DAMAGE FOR A DAY. HENRY PETER GYRICH PICKED UP HIS SHATTERED SPECTACLES AND AGREED TO ALLOW FORGE TO ~~[illegible]~~ LEAVE WITH ORORO MONROE.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH...

YOU'RE GETTING OUT OF THAT BED TODAY.

YOU HAVE TO EAT, ORORO. I WON'T LET YOU DIE AND WASTE AWAY NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU THINK YOU WANT IT.

YOU COULDN'T UNDERSTAND. I--LOST MY BOND... WITH EARTH.

SO NOW YOU JUST GOTTA WALK THE GLOBE LIKE A REGULAR GIRL. YOU WEREN'T SO NARCISSISTIC THAT YOU REALLY BELIEVED THAT "GODDESS" SCHTICK?

I--WILL FLY AGAIN, FORGE...

CONSIDER TODAY A NEW BEGINNING. YOU'RE A PHOENIX REBORN.

BITE YOUR TONGUE.

I'LL EAT SOMETHING TOMORROW.

MAYBE.

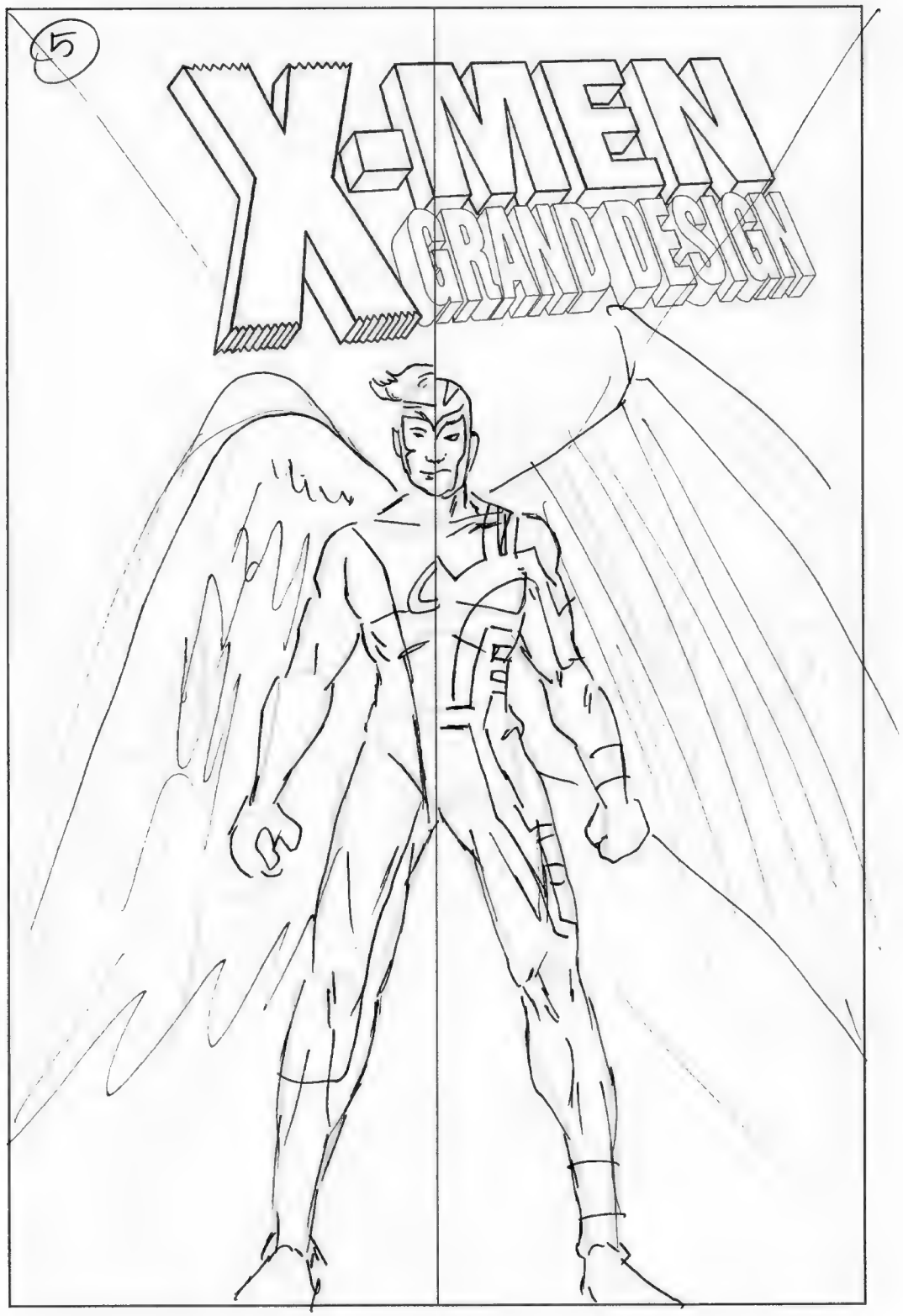
NOW LEAVE.

SPECIAL COLLECTORS EDITION

MARVEL TREASURY EDITION

X-MEN

GRAND DESIGN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X-MEN
GRAND DESIGN

ONE PERSON WAS WAS THE INDIRECT CATALYST FOR SO MUCH MAIMING, MURDER, AND DEVASTATION THAT THE X-MEN WERE NEVER TRULY ABLE TO RECOVER...
HIS NAME IS NATHAN CHRISTOPHER SUMMERS AND ALL OF THIS HORROR WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE HIS FIRST BIRTHDAY...
I'LL REFERENCE THE BABY. DON'T WORRY
HIS MOTHER, MADELYNE PRYOR HAS BEEN EXILED FOR THE MOMENT TO INTRODUCE NATE TO HIS DE FACTO EXTENDED FAMILY.
SCOTT SUMMERS HAD ULTERIOR MOTIVES FOR BRINGING HIS BOY TO THE MANSION.
ROGUE '91
I WILL NOT SCAN THE BOY'S MIND, SCOTT.
SOMETHING IS WRONG, SIR. I CAN'T PUT MY FINGER ON IT.
MAYBE PROFILE OF NIGHTCRAWLER

FREEDOM TOWER. THE HOME-BASE FOR ~~THE MUTANT~~ FORGE. A MUTANT WITH THE UNIQUE GIFT TO BUILD ANYTHING HE IMAGINES.

SINCE HE ~~BE~~ CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEPRIVATION OF STORM'S MUTANT GIFT HE'S BEEN HELPING HER RECOVER HERE...

STORM CRACKING HER BACK

TODAY SHE DECIDES THAT SHE WANTS TO FINALLY LEAVE THIS BEDROOM, AND FREEDOM TOWER FOR GOOD.

THE DECISION TO FINALLY DO SOMETHING PROACTIVE COULD HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED, IN PART, BY SIMPLE CURIOSITY. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MONTHS FORGE DIDN'T CHECK-IN ON STORM AT 10:00 AM, LIKE CLOCKWORK.

STORM GETTING SWARMED BY DEMONS

SHE GETS ENVELOPED SO QUICKLY THAT SHE DOESN'T GET TO SEE ~~THE~~ WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WARDING OFF THE DEMONS, AT FIRST.

STORM GETTING SWALLOWED UP

SHE WOULD NEVER ADMIT THE ~~DISSAPPOINT~~ DISAPPOINTMENT TO LEARN THAT FORGE WASN'T HER SAVIOR.

NAME'S NATE. I'M AN OLD WAR BUDDY OF FORGE'S. ~~WHE~~ ANY IDEA WHERE HE IS? IT'S IMPORTANT.

HE CAN ROT WHEREVER HIS IS AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED.

MAYBE MAKE STORM USING A HAM RADIO TYPE SETUP.

STORM ESTABLISHES CONTACT WITH THE X-MEN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MONTHS.

SHE NEVER WANTS TO THINK ABOUT FORGE OR FREEDOM TOWER EVER AGAIN.

STORM

FREEDOM TOWER OUT WINDOW OF BLACK SIZED

SOON AFTER STORM ARRIVES AT THE MANSION.

...I'VE BEEN ACTING AS LEADER WHILE PROFESSOR X IS PREPARING MAGNETO'S DEFENSE TO THE SUPREME COURT.

SO GLAD TO HAVE YOU BACK, ORORO. NOW I CAN GIVE SCOTT THE DIAPER CHANGING TRAINING HE SO DESPERATELY NEEDS. HA HA!

ABOUT THAT, MADDY. IT'S BEST I KEEP MY POSITION HERE. THE MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE TRIAL HAS CREATED A DANGEROUS STATE OF FEAR...

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS! YOUR FAMILY NEEDS YOU.

MADDY. ORORO IS... ON THE MEND...

SAY WHAT EVERYONE IS THINKING, CYCLOPS...

WHAT GOOD AM I TO THE TEAM WITHOUT MY MUTANT ABILITY? LET'S HIT THE DANGER ROOM AND FIND OUT.

THE DUELING LEADERS AGREE THE SIMULATION ENVIRONMENT FOR THEIR CONTEST.

SURE. FEEL FREE TO USE YOUR OPTIC BLAST.

DYSTOPIAN SETTING

STORM PICKING UP A BRICK ~~AND~~ THROWING IT OVERHEAD.

BRICK HITS WALL

BONK!

THAT YOU OVER THERE?

CONCEDE THE LEADERSHIP OF THE X-MEN TO ME OR OPEN YOUR EYES AND DESTROY EVERYTHING YOU LOOK AT.

SNAGS HIS VISOR

MADELYNE FEELS FOOLISH, BUT PRIVATELY SHE SWEARS SHE WILLED THIS OUTCOME INTO BEING.

CYCLOPS CARRYING SUIT CASES

MADDY PUSHING BABY CARRIAGE

UNDISCLOSED LOCATION. ~~MRT SINISTER~~.

A TERRIBLE REVELATION HAS FALLEN INTO MY LAP THAT REQUIRES DRASTIC ACTION...

"IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT I NEED, A MASSACRE ~~IN~~ IS IN ORDER. ARE YOU IN?"

DOIN' WHAT, WE LOVE AN' GETTIN PAID FER IT?

SOUNDS LIKE THE 'MERICAN DREAM, MISTER SINISTER

MARAUDERS STANDING AROUND LOOKING TOUGH

YUMMY! YUMMY!

UH HUH

DUMPSTER MORLOCKS

PIZZA. PIZZA.

YEPPERS

BLAM!

BOGGY?

BLOOD ON FACE

BLAM BLAM BLAM

AAAH

BLAM BLAM BLAM

DRAW HIM DIVING INTO MANHOLE

AAAAH

MANHOLE

NO ONE ACCUSED THEM OF BEIN' BRAIN SURGEONS.

MARAUDERS

MOMENTS LATER IN THE ALLEY, THE HEART OF THE MORLOCKS HOMESTEAD...

AW, JAM, DONTCHA GET IT?

YOU LEAD 'EM STRAIGHT TO US!

BLAM!

PURE BLACK AND WHITE PANEL

HI. SCOTT.

MISTER SINISTER AND SCOTT SUMMERS RECEIVED THE SAME ALARMING INFORMATION AT VIRTUALLY THE SAME MOMENT, THOUGH IT WAS TRANSMITTED TO THEM IN DIFFERENT WAYS...

THE CALLER ID SAID "REED RICHARDS"! ~~THE FANTASTIC FOUR? WHAT DO THEY WANT, SOME HONEY?~~

HI, SCOTT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE LEAVING.

A QUIET, PEDESTRIAN LIFE WAS NEVER IN THE CARDS FOR CYCLOPS.

DOWN DEEP MADELYNE KNEW ~~WHAT SHE WAS IN FOR~~ THAT LIFE WOULD BE THIS WAY WITH SCOTT. SHE DID THINK THAT SHE MIGHT GET A YEAR OR TWO OF PEACE WITH THE MAN, THOUGH.

EXPLAIN YOURSELF! YOU OWE US THAT.

WHAT DOES THE FANTASTIC FOUR WANT WITH YOU?

WE MAY NOT BE HERE BY THE TIME YOU COME BACK.

I'M SORRY, MADDY. I'LL CALL FROM NEW YORK.

MADDY ISN'T SURE WHERE SHE AND NATHAN ARE GOING ONCE THEY LAND. SHE JUST REFUSES ANOTHER DAY IN THAT EMPTY HOUSE.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE SHE'S THOUGHT ABOUT HER PARENTS. ~~SHE'S EMBARRASSED~~ MADELYNE IS EMBARRASSED SHE CAN'T REMEMBER ~~A~~ WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE ANYMORE BUT SHE COULD REALLY USE A HUG FROM MOM.

THOSE WERE HER LAST MUSINGS BEFORE ALL HER ENERGY WAS FOCUSED ON THE SINGLE, FAILING AIRPLANE ENGINE.

I KNOW NATHAN.

WELL BE ABLE TO STRETCH SOON

CESSNA 4-SEATER

TREELINE

SHE ~~WE~~ WALKED AWAY FROM A PLANE CRASH ALONE ONCE BEFORE. SHE WILL NO ACCEPT BEING THE SOLE SURVIVOR THIS TIME AROUND.

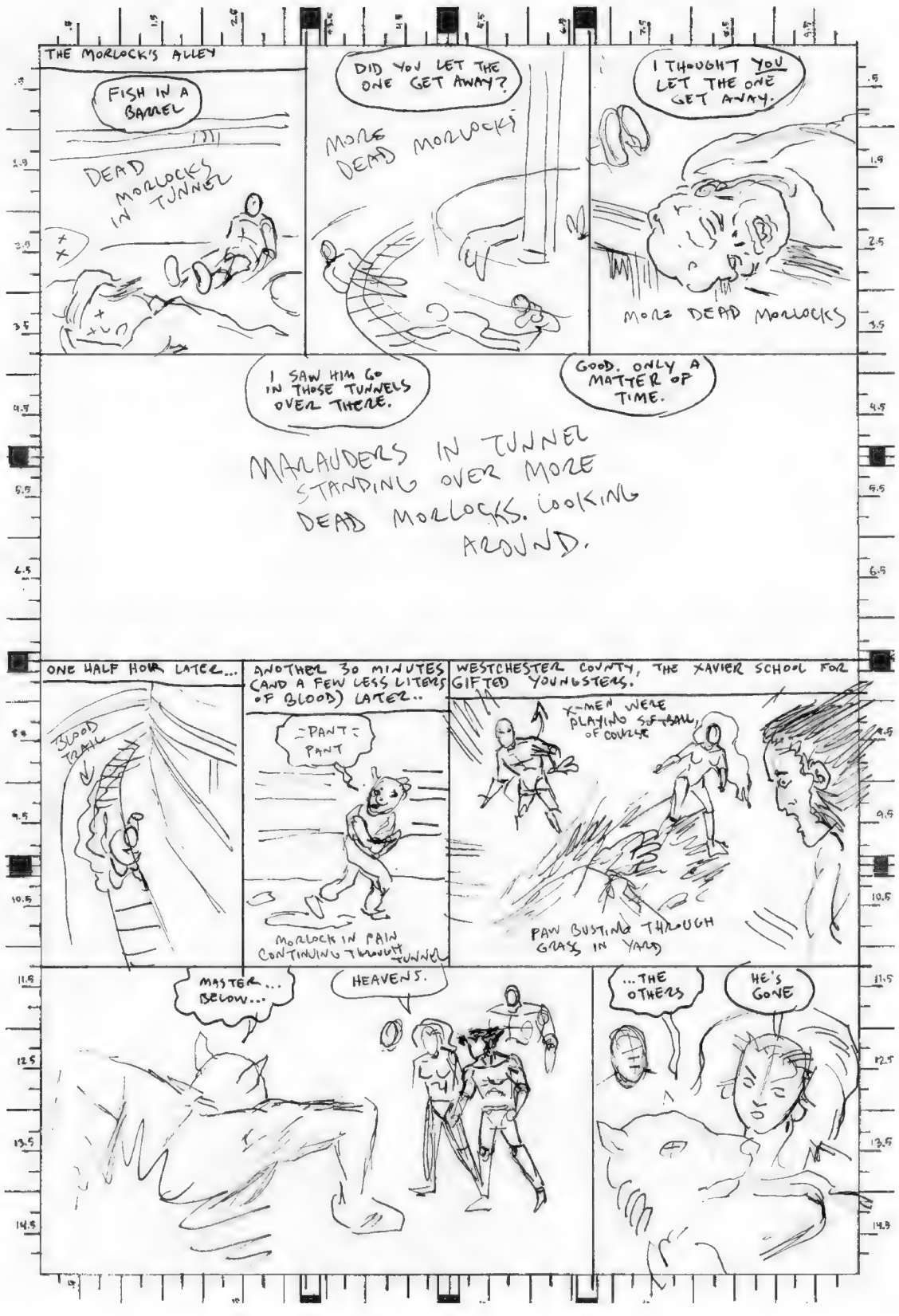
PLEASE... THANK GOD...

MY BABY...

PLEASE CALL FOR...

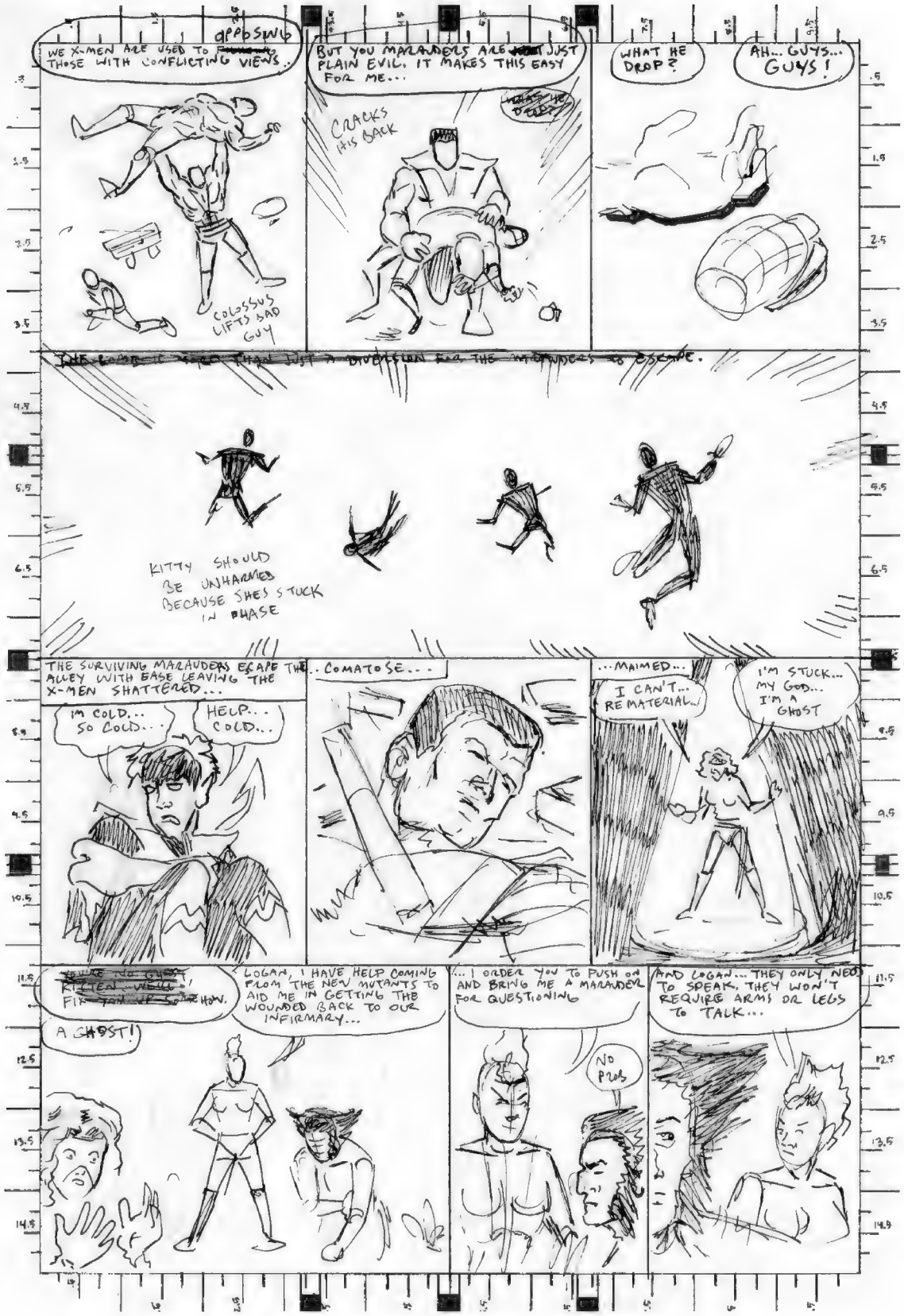
HELP..

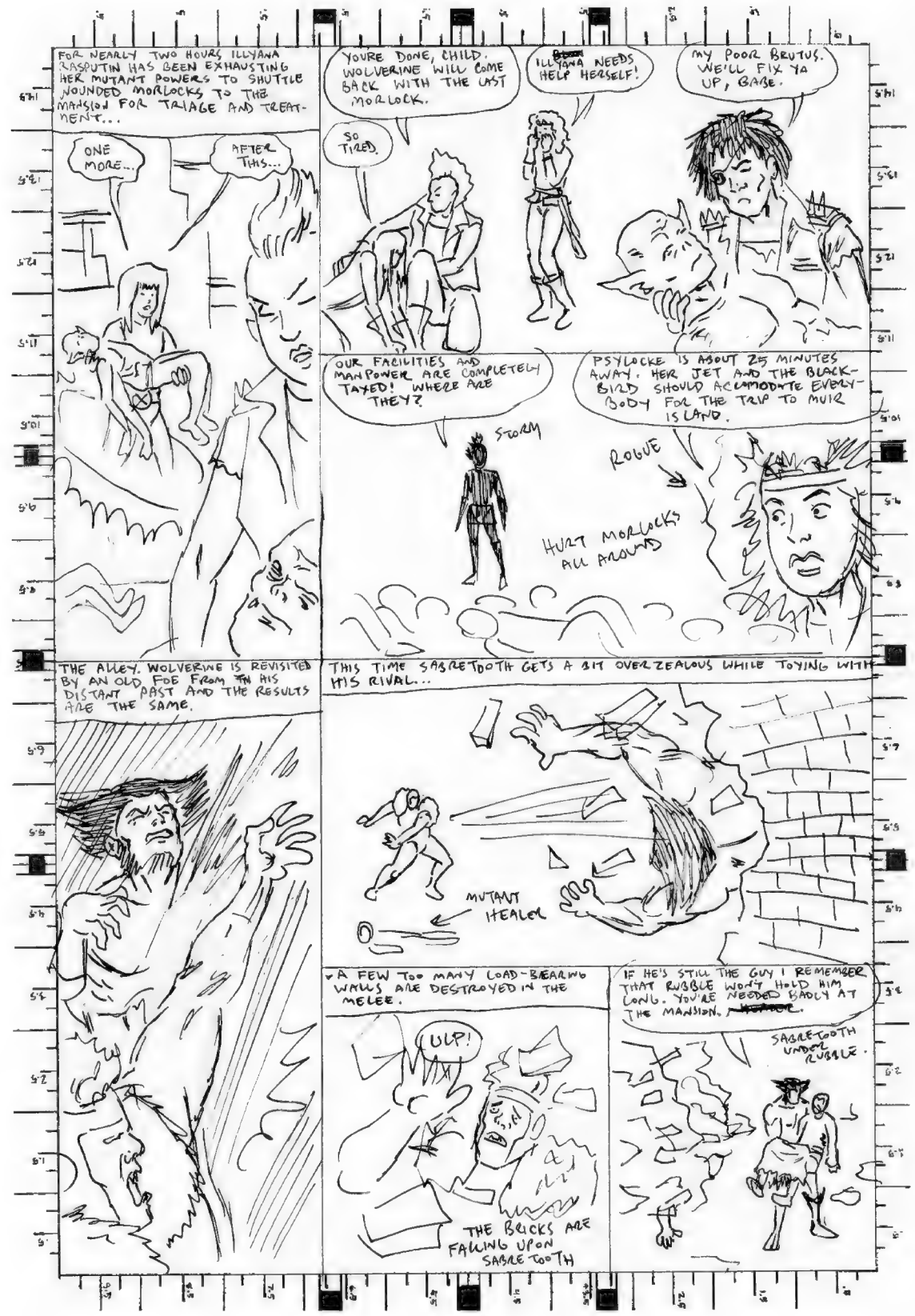
BLAM BLAM



A FEW LITERS OF SPILLED BLOOD LATER

NIGHTCRAWLER GETS SHOT


WE X-MEN ARE USED TO THOSE WITH CONFLICTING VIEWS..
BUT YOU MARAUDERS ARE JUST PLAIN EVIL. IT MAKES THIS EASY FOR ME...
CRACKS HIS BACK
WHAT HE DROP?
AH... GUYS... GUYS!
COLOSSUS LIFTS BAD GUY
KITTY SHOULD BE UNHARMED BECAUSE SHE'S STUCK IN PHASE
THE SURVIVING MARAUDERS ESCAPE THE ALLEY WITH EASE LEAVING THE X-MEN SHATTERED...
I'M COLD... SO COLD...
HELP... COLD...
...COMATOSE...
...MAIMED...
I CAN'T... REMATERIAL...
I'M STUCK... MY GOD... I'M A GHOST
A GHOST!
LOGAN, I HAVE HELP COMING FROM THE NEW MUTANTS TO AID ME IN GETTING THE WOUNDED BACK TO OUR INFIRMARY...
...I ORDER YOU TO PUSH ON AND BRING ME A MARAUDER FOR QUESTIONING
NO PROB
AND LOGAN... THEY ONLY NEED TO SPEAK. THEY WON'T REQUIRE ARMS OR LEGS TO TALK...


FOR NEARLY TWO HOURS ILLYANA RASPUTIN HAS BEEN EXHAUSTING HER MUTANT POWERS TO SHUTTLE WOUNDED MORLOCKS TO THE MANSION FOR TRIAGE AND TREATMENT...
ONE MORE...
AFTER THIS...
YOU'RE DONE, CHILD. WOLVERINE WILL COME BACK WITH THE LAST MORLOCK.
SO TIRED.
ILLYANA NEEDS HELP HERSELF!
MY POOR BRUTUS. WE'LL FIX YA UP, GAGE.
OUR FACILITIES AND MANPOWER ARE COMPLETELY TAXED! WHERE ARE THEY?
PSYLOCKE IS ABOUT 25 MINUTES AWAY. HER JET AND THE BLACKBIRD SHOULD ACCOMODATE EVERYBODY FOR THE TRIP TO MUIR ISLAND.
STORM
ROGUE
HURT MORLOCKS ALL AROUND
THE ALLEY. WOLVERINE IS REVISITED BY AN OLD FOE FROM HIS DISTANT PAST AND THE RESULTS ARE THE SAME.
THIS TIME SABRETOOTH GETS A BIT OVERZEALOUS WHILE TOYING WITH HIS RIVAL...
MUTANT HEALER
A FEW TOO MANY LOAD-BEARING WALLS ARE DESTROYED IN THE MELEE.
ULP!
THE BRICKS ARE FALLING UPON SABRETOOTH
IF HE'S STILL THE GUY I REMEMBER THAT RUBBLE WON'T HOLD HIM LONG. YOU'RE NEEDED BADLY AT THE MANSION.
SABRETOOTH UNDER RUBBLE.

THE MORLOCK HEALERS LIFE DEPENDS ON WOLVERINE GETTING BACK TO THE MANSION FASTER THAN IT TOOK THE X-MEN TO LOCATE THE ALLEY. ~~THEY DID THE LABORIOUS DUNNES~~

THEY DID A NUMBER ON 'IM BY THE TIME I GOT TO 'IM. WHO DO WE GOT THAT CAN HEAL THE HEALER?

WHAT IS IT, PSYLOCKE?

I SENSE... AN ENEMY... TRAILING BEHIND WOLVERINE THROUGH THE TUNNELS!

SNIFF...SNIFF... SHE'S RIGHT. GET 'IM INSIDE AND BATTEN DOWN THE HATCHES!

TAG! YER IT!

SABRETOOTH COMES OUT OF HOLE IN VAULT

WOLVIE SLASHES HIS BACK.

WOLVERINE KNOWS IF SABRETOOTH ATTACKS THE MANSION THEN CHANCES WOULD BE SLIM FOR THOSE ALREADY HURT BY THE MARAUDERS ATTACK.

SABRETOOTH CHASES WOLVIE UP HILL

PSYLOCKE ALSO KNOWS THE SCORE...

SHE CAN'T QUITE PENETRATE SABRETOOTH'S MIND...

SHE DOES, HOWEVER, PROVIDE WOLVERINE A MUCH-NEEDED OPENING...

THE CONSPIRACY TO KILL MUTANTS HAS LEFT THE X-MEN UNDER-STAFFED AND OVERWHELMED...

CBGB

OMFUG

LIGHT

LIGHT

THE MISSION IS TO FIRST, WARN DAZZLER OF THE ATTACKS AND TWO, TO POSSIBLY RECRUIT HER TO HELP UNRAVEL THE MYSTERY.

WHEN THE X-MEN ARRIVE SHE IS BUSY SEARING THE EYES OF THE PEOPLE WHO PAID TO SEE HER SING..

WE'RE TOO LATE...

...AN INCORPOREAL MUTANT HAS POSSESSED DAZZLER.

THE MARAUDER, MALICE, HAS BEEN FORCING DAZZLER TO DO THINGS AGAINST HER WILL FOR DAYS NOW.

MALICE HAS MANY CAPABILITIES BUT SHE CAN ONLY READ THE THOUGHTS OF THOSE SHE POSSESSES.

SLEEP CHILD!

ONCE KNOCKED OUT, PSYLOCKE BEGINS THE DELICATE WORK TO PURGE THE EVIL SPECTER FOR DAZZLER.

THE X-MEN WILL HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT CAPTURING AND CONTAINING MALICE AT A LATER DATE NOW THAT THEY KNOW ~~THESE~~ WHAT THEY'RE DEALING WITH.

I CALL THE AMBO FOR THESE PEOPLE...

SIGH... SURE I'LL HELP YA.

I DON'T THINK I HAVE ANY OTHER CHOICE IN THE MATTER NOW.

ACROSS THE COUNTRY, MADELYNE PRYOR EMERGES FROM HER COMA IN A SAN FRANCISCO HOSPITAL.

MY BABY?

WHERE'S MY BABY!

AFTER SURVEYING THE BOWERY FOR CLUES, THE X-MEN MAKE THEIR WAY BACK HOME...

ALEX SUMMERS!

I DID WHAT I COULD TO HELP IN THE INFIRMARY WHILE YOU WERE GONE. WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?

I CAN'T REACH SCOTT... I COULDN'T GET IN TOUCH WITH ANYONE HERE ALL WEEK...

I CAME AS FAST AS I COULD. I KNEW IT COULDN'T BE GOOD.

STORM FILLS HAVOK IN ON ALL THATS HAPPENED WHILE THE OTHER X-MEN RETURN TO CARE FOR THE WOUNDED.

...SHOULD GO WITHOUT SAYING THAT POLARIS AND I PLEDGE OUR SERVICES.

SPEAKING OF YOUR WIFE... WHERE IS SHE RIGHT NOW?

OH NO...

NEW MEXICO...

I'M MALICE... PLEASURE TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE...

WELCOME TO THE MARAUDERS!

MOIRA MACTAGGERT HAS HAD HER FACILITIES ON MUIR ISLAND STERILIZED, PREPPED AND READY FOR DAYS TO HELP TREAT THE MORLOCK SURVIVORS OF THE MUTANT MASSACRE...

JAMIE, WE'RE GONNA NEED AS MANY HELPIN' HANDS AS YE C'N SPARE...

I CAN SPLIT INTO ABOUT A DOZEN BEFORE I GET WOOZY! DOCTOR MACK.

THE X-MEN SAVE SOME BAD NEWS FOR WHEN THEY GET THERE...

MY LORD, WHAT A TIME FOR HALF YE'R SQUAD TO BE ON THE SIDELINE...

GUEST

LONGSHOT, A MYSTERIOUS ALIEN ON MUIR ISLAND PLEDGES ALLEGIANCE TO THE X-MENS MISSION. HE IS ACCEPTED INTO THE FOLD AFTER A THOROUGH MIND-SCAN VIA PSYLOCKE...

BANSHEE SEVERLY HURT HIS THROAT HELPING ME OUT OR ELSE HE'D JOIN US, TOO.

THREE FINGERS!

NIGHT-CRAWLER ONLY HAS TWO...

I'LL TONE DOWN THESE GIRLS

WHAT A RAG-TAG BUNCHA CUSSES...

THEY'RE YOURS TO DIRECT, LOGAN. I NAME YOU LEADER IN MY ABSENCE...

HAVOK, ROGUE, DAZZLER, PSYLOCKE

YOU KIDDIN'? YER GONNA BAIL AGAIN WHEN WE'RE AT OUR WEAKEST? WHAT GIVES, ROGO?

IN ORDER FOR ME TO BE TRULY EFFECTIVE I SIMPLY MUST FIND FORGE AND PRESS HIM TO DEVELOP A SOLUTION TO RESTORE MY MUTANT ABILITY. FULL STRENGTH..

DEEP DOWN STORM KNEW SHE WOULD HAVE TO REVISIT FREEDOM TOWER, BUT NOT THIS SOON. SHE CAN FEEL HER PULSE THROB HARDER WITH EVERY STEP TOWARD THE ENTRYWAY.

SHE DIDN'T SPOT A SOUL IN THE LOBBY. THERE WAS NOBODY OPERATING THE ELEVATOR. ONCE STORM HITS THE PENTHOUSE THERE IS NO FORGE.

NAZE? WHERE IS HE?

BACK IN THE WAR... OUR PLATOON, WE WERE ALL PINNED DOWN. HURT BAD. YOU SAW YOUR BOYFRIENDS LEG AND HAND. WELL HE DESPERATELY USED OUR COMBINED LIFE-FORCES TO SUMMON AN ANCIENT SPIRIT FROM OUR TRIBE FOR HELP TO SAVE US... HE SCREWED UP...

NAZE DESCRIBES HOW FORGE BECAME CORRUPTED BY THE DEMON HE AROUSED AND HOW FORGE IS ON A QUEST TO OPEN THE DEMON-WORLD SO THAT THEY CAN FEAST UPON EARTH...

I'M CASHING IN MY DEBT AFTER I SAVED YOUR HYDE A FEW MONTHS BACK, GIRLY.

I'M TOO OLD... NOT SURE I CAN STOP FORGE ALONE...

PORTAL OPENING

WE'LL HAVE TO HIKE THE SPIRIT PATH AND GET HIM BEFORE HE DOES IRREVERSIBLE DAMAGE..

X-MEN 222

IT'S RARE THAT THE X-MEN GET TO PREEMPT A VILLAINOUS PLOT...

FAN OUT, NERDS!

THE MARAUDERS FROM THE PREVIOUS FIGHTS ARE MANAGEABLE TO THE SQUAD, BUT THE X-MEN DIDN'T EXPECT...

LET'S GO TOOTS

THE MARAUDERS ON THE GROUND WERE FORCED TO RETREAT WHEN...

HOWEVER, THEY ONLY BEAT THE MARAUDERS TO MADELYNE PRYOR BY A FEW CRUCIAL MINUTES.

STAY LOW, MADDY!

POLARIS SWOOPING IN

ROGUE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN PURSUE THE MALICE-DRIVEN POLARIS INTO THE SKY.

LORNA!

ALEX! STOP! SHE'S GOT AWAY!

WOLVIE IS WOUNDED FROM SHOTS

PSYLOCKE RESPECTFULLY ONLY GOES SO FAR INTO THE PAST WHILE SHE RESTORES MADELYNE'S FRACTURED MEMORY.

WE-WE HAVE TO SAVE-- LORNA...

WE WILL, BUD. GET A GRIP.

MY BABY!

MY GOD, THEY HAVE MY BABY!

PARTS UNKNOWN...
THE DNA THAT MAKES UP THIS CREATURE WILL TAKE MONTHS TO CLONE AND RUN DIAGNOSTICS.

I TOLD YOU ALL THAT IN ORDER TO WORK IN PEACE I NEEDED ITS MOTHER MORE THAN DEAD. NO SIMPLE BULLETS IN THE HEAD. SHE NEEDED TO DISAPPEAR.

THE LITTLE MORLOCK MASSACRE COMPLETELY ~~FRIED~~ OFFED HER UP TO BE ERASED FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH. I ASK YOU MARAUDERS...

DOES THIS COW LOOK VAPORIZED TO YOU?

"...THANKFULLY THEY ASSURE ME THAT... MY BABY WAS NOT AMONG THE WRECKAGE..."

(4) JANE DOE

"...SOB... IT'S ALL BLANK AFTER THE PLANE CRASH..."

(4) JANE DOE

"ANYBODY WITH INFORMATION... I IMPLORE YOU TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE HOSPITAL... I NEED MY LITTLE NATHANIEL..."

(4) JANE DOE

YOU HEATHENS WILL NOT RECEIVE A DIME FOR HALF-MEASURES.

INCLUDING POLARIS?

MARAUDERS STANDING AROUND LOOKIN' TOUGH.

THE X-MEN WERE WITNESS TO THE VERY SAME NEWS BROADCAST...

STILL CAN'T GET HOLD OF CYCLOPS..

~~[illegible]~~ THE HOSPITAL SAYS MADDY'S IN A SECURE WING..

I HEARD A MILLION PROMISES LIKE THAT BEFORE.

TIME WORKS DIFFERENTLY ALONG THE SPIRIT PATHWAY. SOMETIMES THE DAYLIGHT LASTS LONGER THAN 24 HOURS. SOMETIMES NOT. STORM WOULD WAGER THAT SHE AND NAZE HAVE BEEN TRAVERSING THE INCLINE FOR LITTLE MORE THAN A WEEK...

THE SMALLER DEMONS ARE THE TASTIEST, NO?

NAZE! WATCH OUT

EACH DAY OF TRAVEL WORKS JUST ABOUT THE SAME FOR THE DUO, THOUGH, ANY MOMENT EITHER OF THEM CAN FIND THEMSELVES IN THE ROLE OF VICTIM.

~~THE FACT CAN~~ NEITHER WOULD HAVE GOTTEN VERY FAR ON THE COURSE WITHOUT THE OTHER.

-GASP-

AFTER CUTTING THROUGH ENOUGH DEMONS THE USUALLY ARE ABLE TO AFFORD A NIGHT'S RESPITE TO REST IN INTERVALS.

HE LIED TO YOU ABOUT BEIN' A MUTIE. HE MADE A PACT WITH DEVILS, GIRLY.

EACH DAY THEY INCH CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THEIR TARGET, CUTTING DOWN MONSTERS ALONG THE WAY...

KEEP MOVIN'!

EACH NIGHT NAZE CONTINUES TO REINFORCE TO STORM JUST HOW EVIL FORGE REALLY IS...

NO SLEEP TONIGHT. LET US ~~[illegible]~~ CONTINUE OUR JOURNEY.

FORGE IS CLOSE ENOUGH THAT I CAN'T RELAX ONE MOMENT. WE WILL STOP THIS MADNESS AND HE WILL DIE BY MY HAND WITHIN ONE ~~[illegible]~~ DAY

THE MORLOCKS IN THE MUIR ISLAND INFIRMARY WHO WERE GOING TO DIE HAVE, FOR THE MOST PART, DONE SO. THE SITUATION MAY HAVE STABILIZED ENOUGH FOR A SUPPLY RUN TO TOWN, BUT...

ROGUE!

MOMMA! HOW'D YOU...

I'LL NEVER STOP KEEPING TABS TO MAKE CERTAIN YOU'RE DOING WELL, KIDDO. THE THING IS,.. I HAVE SOME INTEL THAT MAY PROVE CATASTROPHIC... I'M TORN BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW.

MYSTIQUE DESCRIBES THE BROTHERHOOD'S NEWEST MEMBER, DESTINY, AND HOW SHE CAN FORSEE TINY, BROKEN GLIMPSES OF THE FUTURE. MYSTIQUE TELLS ROGUE ABOUT THOSE VISIONS SURROUNDING FREEDOM TOWER...

IN ORDER TO SAVE HUMANITY... THE X-MEN MUST PERISH...

GIVING MYSTIQUE SUFFICIENT TIME TO MAKE HER GETAWAY, ROGUE PONDEROUSLY SHUFFLES BACK TO MOIRA'S MAIN LABORATORY FOR AN ALL HANDS ON DECK MEETING...

CLEARLY A TRAP!

NOT JUST A TRAP. IT'S A THREAT. THEY MUST KNOW STORM IS AT FREEDOM TOWER AN' THEY'RE GONNA SNUFF HER IF WE DONT SHOW UP.

I'LL BE JOINING YOU ON THIS MISSION...

YOU H

YOU ~~HEALTHY ENOUGH~~ NOT TO ~~BE A LIABILITY, RUSSKIE~~?

YOU HEALTHY ENOUGH NOT TO BE A LIABILITY, RUSSKIE.

OKAY. YER IN. LET'S GO

THE SPIRIT PATH COMES TO IT'S CONCLUSION...

FORGE!

YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH DAMAGE FOR A LIFETIME, MONSTER...

(ULP!)

STORM WAS TOLD THAT THE DEMON PORTAL WOULD DIM AT THE SAME RATE AS FORGE'S LIFE FORCE. THIS IS NOT THE CASE...

I WASN'T OPENING IT...

I WAS TRYING TO CLOSE THE PORTAL...

WASNT STRONG ENOUGH

INSTANTLY, STORM REALIZED SHE ALLOWED HER ANGER AND HATRED TO CLOUD HER JUDGEMENT.

HEH HEH

HA HA HA HA HA

~~THIS~~ A STEADY STREAM OF MONSTERS INVADE THE EARTH AND THE ONLY PERSON WHO KNOWS HOW TO ~~PROP~~ STOP IT HAS MORE THAN HALF HIS BLOOD ON THE DIRT...

EAGLE PLAZA, FREEDOM TOWER, NOT MUCH AFTER THE X-MEN ARRIVE TO CONFRONT THE EXPECTANT BROTHER HOOD...

YOU DON' THAT IN THE SKY, DAZZLE. WHAT THE HELL IS NOW?

DEMONS COMING OUT OF THE PORTAL.

AWRIGHT, BLUE BOLLY. SO YA WEREN'T LYIN'

THANKS FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT BEFORE WE DIE, HEDGE HOG.

DRAW THESE THINGS AWAY FROM THE CIVILIANS...

KILL ONE AND TEN MORE SHOW UP...

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING!

THE SKY RIPPED WIDE OPEN AND POURED MONSTERS ALL OVER THE CITY...

WHY WOULDN'T NEWS CREWS SHOW UP?

NEWS CAMERA MEN

WHAT IS IT, DESTINY? ANOTHER VISION? WHAT HAPPENS?

AARGH

I'M SORRY, MYSTIQUE. WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO SAVE ROGUE.

MYSTIQUE VISITING GRAVE

NAZE, THE TRICKSTER, HAS LEFT STORM AND FORGE FOR WHAT FEELS LIKE MONTHS IN THIS SPIRIT REALM. IT'S ONLY BEEN A FEW HOURS, EARTHTIME. ORORO HAS ASSISTED FORGE TO ALMOST PERFECT PHYSICAL CONDITION. THE MENTAL PART TAKES LONGER...

NAZE WAS CORRECT ABOUT A FEW THINGS...

STORM WAS HER HAIR

"IT WAS A DOMINO EFFECT OF LANDMINES THAT DID US IN. I LED MY MEN STRAIGHT INTO DECIMATION LIKE A DAMN ROOKIE, AND I GOT TO COME OUT THE MOST IN TACT, HOW DO YA LIKE THAT?"

DIAGRAMS OF BATTLE DAMAGE

PUDGE FRANK

FAST EDDIE

SIKKO JAKE

DRAW AS MANY GUYS AS THERE IS X-MEN

"BEFORE SHOCK TOOK HOLD, AND BEFORE TOO MANY OF MY MEN PASSED AWAY, I MADE A DESPERATE CALL TO THE ANCIENT ONES FOR HELP."

HRLH

UGH

SO COLD

MOMMY

"MY SOLDIERS SOULS HAD TO AID AND BOOST MY INCANTATIONS TO THE HEALING SPIRITS. I DIDN'T ASK FOR THEIR PERMISSION AND THIS BECAME MY SECOND CATACLYSMIC BLUNDER OF THAT DAY."

SOMEHOW, THE TASTE OF UNWITTING HUMAN SPIRITS UNLEASHED EVIL FORCES FROM THE ANCIENT ONES...

THIS IS ALL MY FAULT, ORORO...

YOU'VE BEEN UP TO SOMETHING, FORGE. WHAT IS IT?

YOU NOTICED, HUH?

FOLLOW ME.

FORGE EXPLAINS HOW THIS GUN HE CONSTRUCTED FROM HIS CYBERNETIC LIMBS SHOULD RESTORE STORMS MUTANT ABILITY.

READY?

DO YOU HAVE TO STAND SO CLOSE?

DRAW TOTEM IN PAINT

HER COMMAND OF LIGHTNING WILL BE REQUIRED TO CATAPULT THE DUO INTO THE OMNIVERSE TO DESTROY TRICKSTER...

ITS NOT WORKING...

I FEEL NO DIFFERENT.

TOTEM

IT BETTER WORK.

HEY!

TOTEM

PUSHES STORM OFF CLIFF

UH OH

AAAAAAA

GAIA!

I AM YOURS TO COMMAND!

FORGE GIVES STORM A FEW MOMENTS TO ENJOY HERSELF BEFORE REMINDING HER TO BLAST THE TOTEM WHEN NECESSARY.

NOW!

FOR BEING OUT OF PRACTICE HER SHOT WAS RIGHT ON TARGET, THUS CREATING A ROUTE STRAIGHT OUT OF THE SPIRIT REALM..

THE FIRST DEMONS RECORDED ON FILM ARE BROADCAST LIVE AROUND THE WORLD FROM THE SHOWDOWN AT FREEDOM TOWER...

MOIRA MACTAGGERT MANAGED TO HELP KITTY PRYDE SOLIDIFY HER CORPOREAL FORM, BUT THE X-MAN IS FAR TOO WEAK TO LEAVE MUIR ISLAND TO HELP HER TEAM...

ONE OF THEM LOOKS FREE. SIR! SIR?

"YOURE AN X-MAN, CORRECT? DID ON OF YOUR EXPERIMENTS GO AWRY? WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE?"

"THIS IS LIVE? ILLYANA, KATYA, MOM, DAD... IF WE DON'T SUCCEED TODAY... I LOVE YOU ALL."

LIGHT? THERE'S SOMETHIN' GOING ON INSIDE OF FREEDOM TOWER.

WE'RE GOIN' IN. MYSTIQUE, YOU AND YOUR GUYS HAVE THINGS COVERED OUT HERE?

NEWS CAMAR

NEWS CAMAR

"NO PROBLEM..."

MOMENTS AFTER THE X-MEN ENTER THE LOBBY OF FREEDOM TOWER.

FREEDOM TOWER

BOOM!

"ROGUE! MY BABY IS IN THERE!"

ITS UNCLEAR WHAT CAUSED THE EXPLOSION... THERE IS A EERIE SILENCE AMONGST THE RUBBLE.. EMS AND FIRST RESPONDERS CAN'T SEEM TO BE ABLE TO GET NEAR THE CALAMITY WITH THESE HORDES OF MONSTERS SO CLOSE TO THE IMPACT ZONE.

THE OMNIVERSE. FORGE AND STORM FORCE A REUNION WITH THE X-MEN TO BATTLE THE TRICKSTER ON THIS PLANE OF EXISTENCE IN HOPES OF ENDING THE DEMON INVASION ON EARTH.

WE'LL NEED THE READERS DIGEST VERSION OF WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, STORM.

THE ONLY ONE WHO ~~BE~~ CAN REVERSE THIS MADNESS IS ROMA, THE KEEPER OF THIS REALM...

X-MEN

NAZE

HA HAHA HA!

NAZE HAS DONE SOMETHING TO HER AND HE'S BEEN WAITING US OUT.

THE INVASION WILL BE COMPLETE IN NO TIME IF WE KEEP THIS UP.

PSYLOCKE, CAN YOU EXTRACT SOME INTEL OUT OF HIS MELON SO THAT WE CAN FIGURE OUT WHERE TO BEGIN?

PUT BUTTERFLY MOVE PSYLOCKS HEAD

UUH... I... CAN'T...

BUT ONE DOESN'T NEED TELEPATHY TO NOTICE HOW TRICKSTER WINCED WHEN COLOSSUS TOOK ~~IN~~ HIS METALLIC FORM...

GOT IT!

LONGSHOT, REVOLVE FAST-BALL SPECIAL.

HUFF

ROGUE

EEEEEE!

FLIES THROUGH NAZE UNLEASHES THE BOSS-MODE ADVERSARY

ROGUE SPOTS AN OPENING WHEN THE ADVERSARY IS FORCED TO REVEAL ITS TRUE FORM.

THE PORTAL SUE WAS ABLE TO GENERATE USING THE TRICKSTERS POWERS WOULD ~~SEE~~ SEND HIM AWAY FOR GOOD BUT HE'S STRANGER THAN THEY ~~THINK~~ REALIZE.

WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO KILL THIS THING, FORGE?

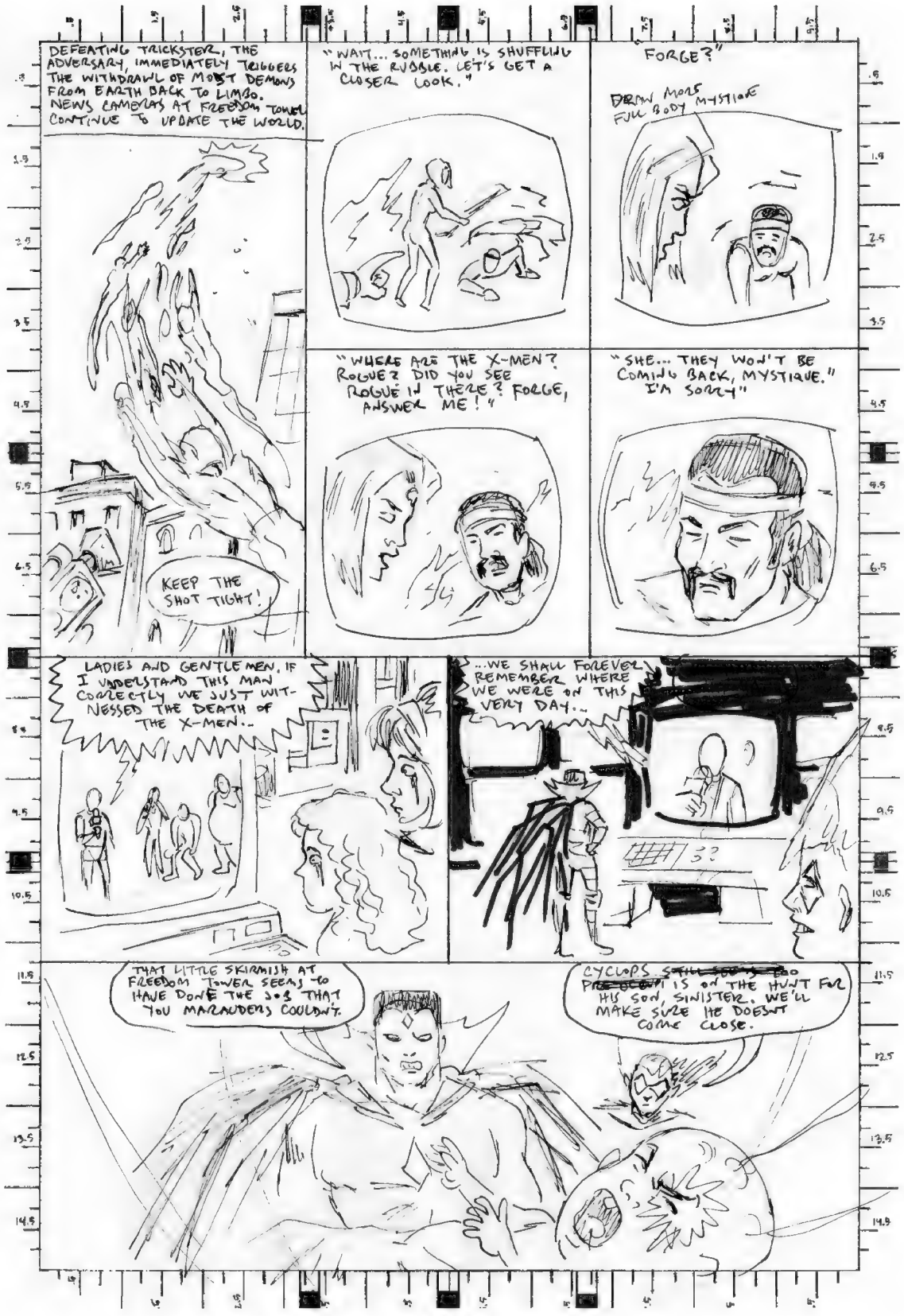
THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE, I'M AFRAID.

SACRIFICE

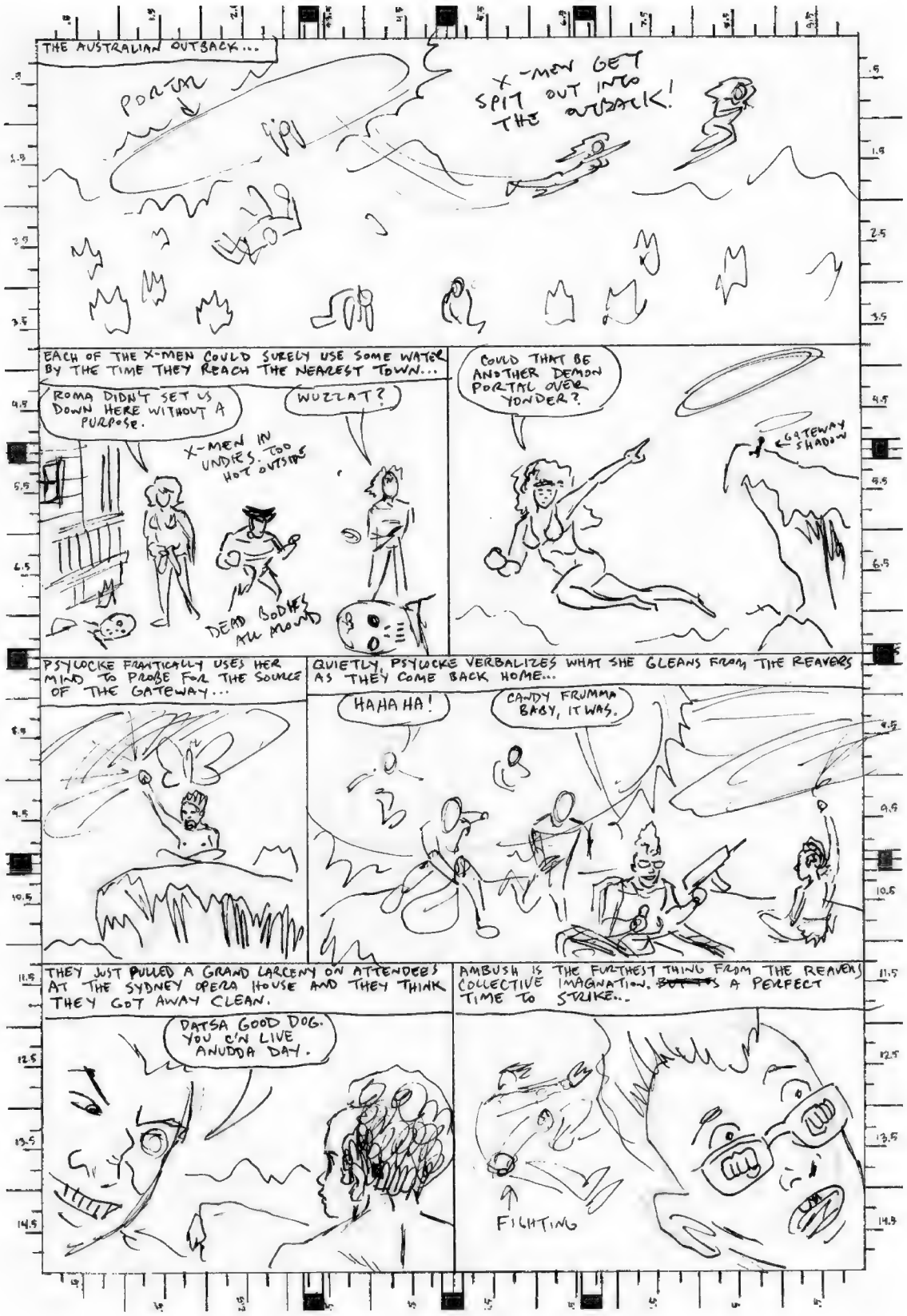
THIS TIME, FORGE GETS PERMISSION, ONE BY ONE, FROM HIS COMRADES, TO ~~GIVE UP~~ THEIR LIFE FORCE FOR THE GOOD OF THE PLANET...

TRICKSTER HAS NO CHANCE OF SURVIVAL WHEN THE TOTALITY OF THE X-MEN'S SPIRITS ARE COMBINED...

GREEEEE:

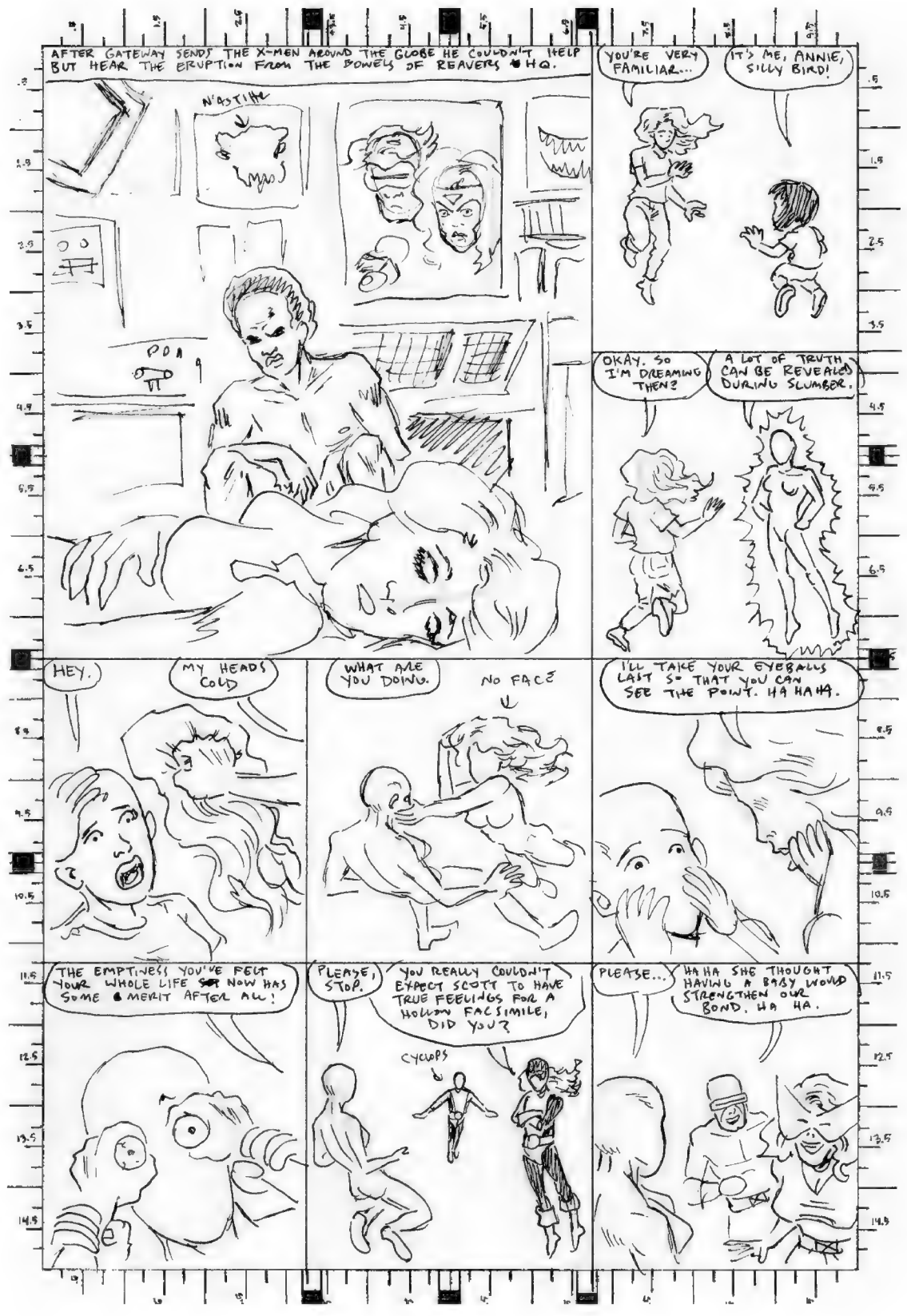

DEFEATING TRICKSTER, THE ADVERSARY, IMMEDIATELY TRIGGERS THE WITHDRAWL OF MOST DEMONS FROM EARTH BACK TO LIMBO. NEWS CAMERAS AT FREEDOM TOWER CONTINUE TO UPDATE THE WORLD.
KEEP THE SHOT TIGHT!
"WAIT... SOMETHING IS SHUFFLING IN THE RUBBLE. LET'S GET A CLOSER LOOK."
"FORGE?"
DRAW MORE FULL BODY MYSTIQUE
"WHERE ARE THE X-MEN? ROGUE? DID YOU SEE ROGUE IN THERE? FORGE, ANSWER ME!"
"SHE... THEY WON'T BE COMING BACK, MYSTIQUE." I'M SORRY"
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IF I UNDERSTAND THIS MAN CORRECTLY WE JUST WITNESSED THE DEATH OF THE X-MEN..
..WE SHALL FOREVER REMEMBER WHERE WE WERE ON THIS VERY DAY..
THAT LITTLE SKIRMISH AT FREEDOM TOWER SEEMS TO HAVE DONE THE JOB THAT YOU MARAUDERS COULDN'T.
CYCLOPS ~~STILL SOR'S TOO~~ ~~PRE-OCCUPI~~ IS ON THE HUNT FOR HIS SON, SINISTER. WE'LL MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T COME CLOSE.

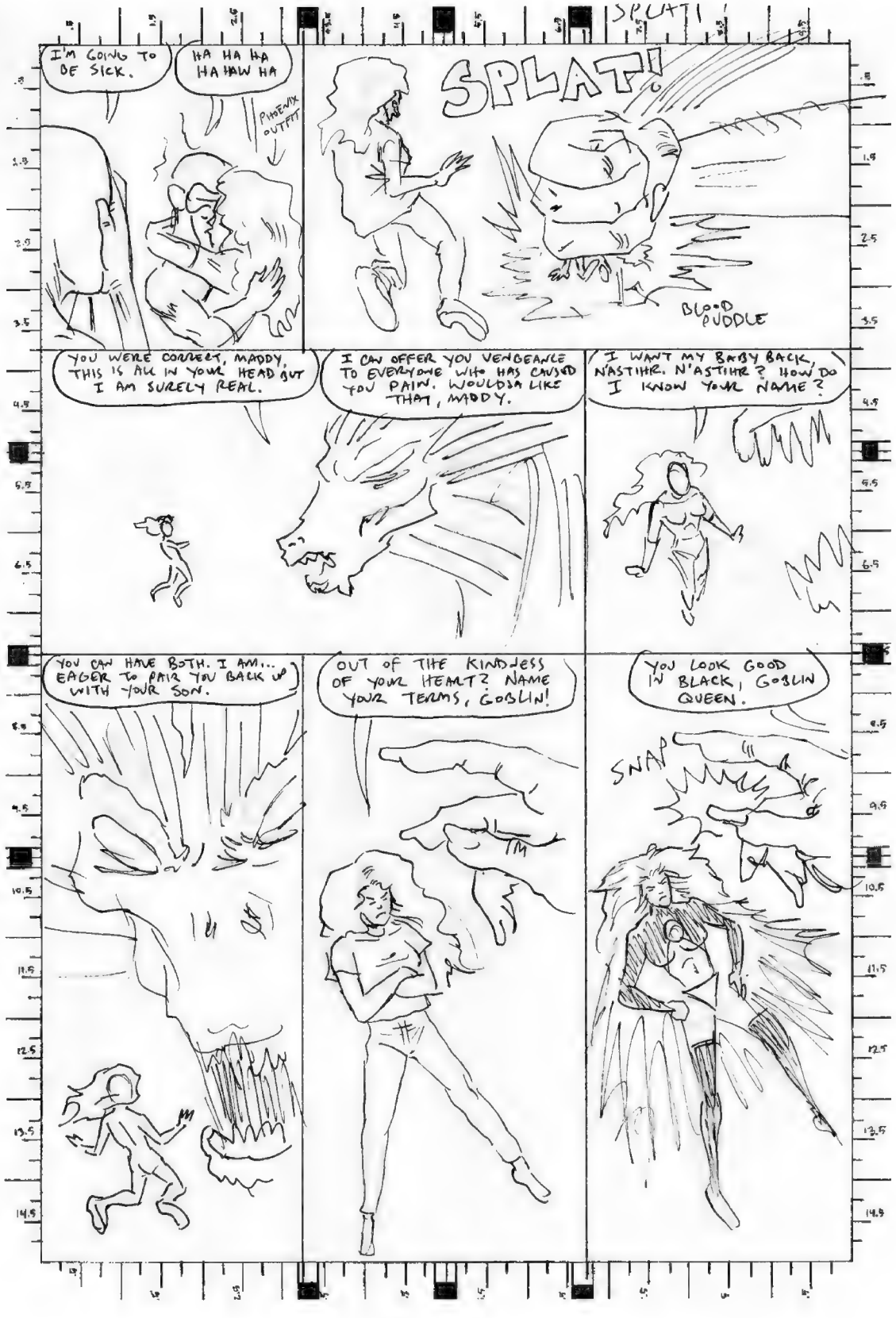
AFTER SOME DILIGENT SEARCHING, THE X-MEN FIND ROMA, THE KEEPER OF THE OMNIVERSE BOUND IN THE MOST CONCEALED CORNER OF THE REALM...
DID FORGES GIMMICK WORK? ARE WE DEAD? I FEEL SO... REGULAR.
I ASSURE YOU THE DEMONS SCATTERED HOME ONCE THEY REALIZED TRICKSTER WILL BE ENTOMBED FOR ANOTHER AGE. THEY DON'T WANT SIMILAR PUNISHMENT AT MY HAND...
THE SELFLESS FORFIETURE OF YOUR LIVES SHALL YIELD REWARDS COMMENSURATE OF YOUR TOTAL SACRIFICE.
X-MEN IN HER HAND
I OFFER THE GIFT OF LIFE AND TO BE PROJECTED TO ANY TIME, PLACE, AGE, OR REALITY THAT YOU SO CHOOSE.
I CAN ALSO SEND YOU BACK TO THE ~~PLACE TO~~ EXACT MOMENT AFTER YOU LEFT THE ~~POINT~~ PLAIN OF EXISTENCE MOST FAMILIAR TO YOU..
ROMA, IS IT WITHIN YOUR POWER TO BRING US BACK TO OUR TIMELINE, YET, ALLOW HUMANITY TO THINK WE ARE STILL... GONE?
I LIKE YER STYLE STORM, WE CAN PLAY UNFETTERED OFFENSE IF EVERYONE THINKS WE'RE TOAST.
BUT, WHAT ABOUT OUR FAMILIES, FRIENDS? THIS WOULD BE A CRUEL TRICK TO ~~PLAY~~ INFLICT ON OUR LOVED ONES.
ALISON, THINK OF HOW THEY ALL HAD TARGETS ON THEIR BACKS WHENEVER ADVERSARIES WANTED TO HIT US WHERE WE HURT.
LIKE MY POOR SON. I ENDORSE THIS OPTION IF WE MAKE FINDING NATHAN AND BRINGING THE MARAUDERS TO SWIFT JUSTICE OUR FIRST PRIORITY.
I CAN'T THINK OF A MORE IMPORTANT MISSION.
SO IT IS DECIDED, ROMA GIVES THE X-MEN A KIND OF REBIRTH, BY ALTERING THEIR PHYSIOLOGY TO AVOID MANY FORMS OF DETECTION, AND PROJECTS THEM TO THE FURTHEST POINT ON THE GLOBE FROM FREEDOM TOWER.
X-MEN FALLING INTO PORTAL

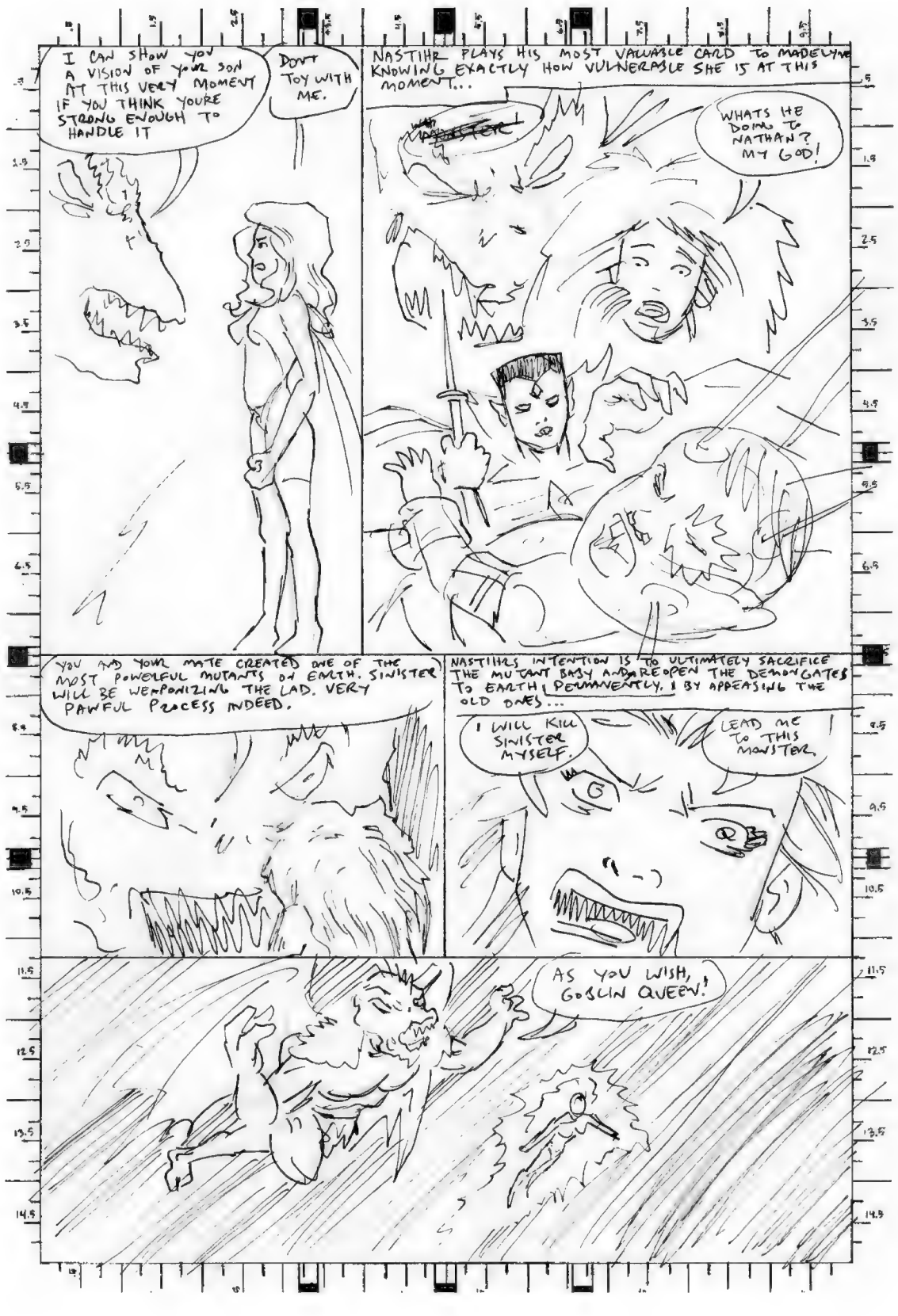

THE AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK...
PORTAL
X-MEN GET SPIT OUT INTO THE OUTBACK!
EACH OF THE X-MEN COULD SURELY USE SOME WATER BY THE TIME THEY REACH THE NEAREST TOWN...
ROMA DIDN'T SET US DOWN HERE WITHOUT A PURPOSE.
WUZZAT?
X-MEN IN UNDIES. TOO HOT OUTSIDE
DEAD BODIES ALL AROUND
COULD THAT BE ANOTHER DEMON PORTAL OVER YONDER?
GATEWAY SHADOW
PSYLOCKE FRANTICALLY USES HER MIND TO PROBE FOR THE SOURCE OF THE GATEWAY...
QUIETLY, PSYLOCKE VERBALIZES WHAT SHE GLEANS FROM THE REAVERS AS THEY COME BACK HOME...
HAHA HA!
CANDY FRUMMA BABY, IT WAS.
THEY JUST PULLED A GRAND LARCENY ON ATTENDEES AT THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE AND THEY THINK THEY GOT AWAY CLEAN.
AMBUSH IS THE FURTHEST THING FROM THE REAVERS COLLECTIVE IMAGINATION. ~~BUT~~ IS A PERFECT TIME TO STRIKE...
DATSA GOOD DOG. YOU C'N LIVE ANUDDA DAY.
FIGHTING

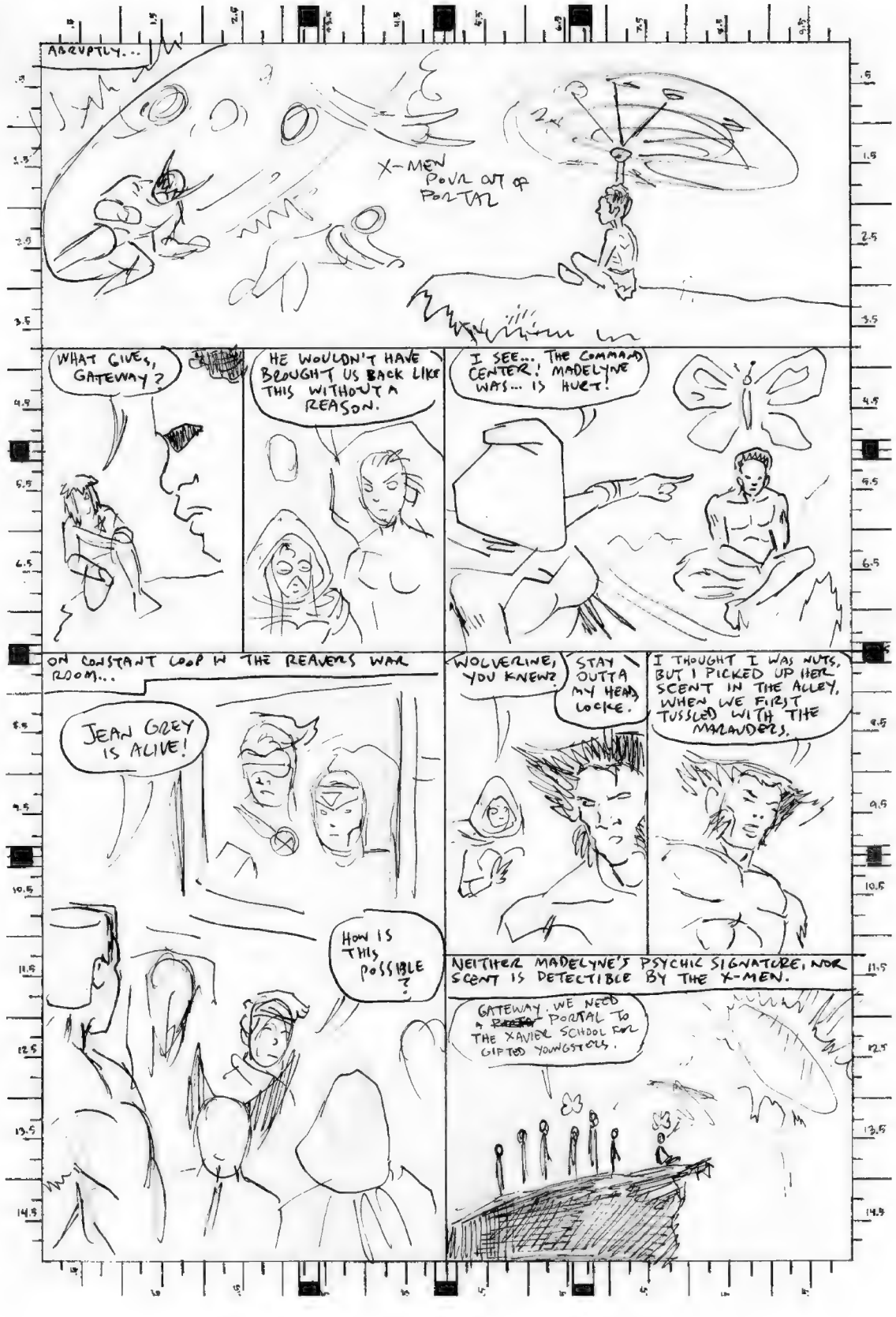
GATEWAY! PORTAL NOW, MATE!
HOL' THE DOOR OPEN, BLOKE.
LET'S BOUNCE!
MATE? THEY YOUR FRIENDS?
HE'S NOT ONE OF THEM, WOLVERINE.
THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE HELPS THE X-MEN END THE FIGHT WITH MINIMAL DAMAGE, BUT THERE IS ONE COMPLICATION.
WHAT HAPPENS NOW? WE CAN'T PLAY DEAD IF THESE GOOBS KNOW THE TRUTH.
I GOT AN IDEA.
WHO THE HECK?
SUDDENLY, ROMA MATERIALIZES BRINGING WITH HER THE X-MEN'S FINAL GIFT, THE SIEGE PERILOUS..
THIS DOORWAY SHALL PASS JUDGEMENT UPON ALL WHO ENTER..
X-MEN & REAVERS
...YET, ONE'S LIFE WILL TAKE A NEW COURSE WHEN THEY MAKE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE ARCHWAY..
X-MEN, YOU CAN EITHER END THEIR LIVES IN THIS REALM COMPLETELY OR OFFER THESE REAVERS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR REDEMPTION.
THE X-MEN ~~DECIDE~~ ALLOW THE REAVERS TO MAKE THE CALL...
I DON'T GIT THE MAGIC MUMBO JUMBO, BUT, SO LONG...
ROMA THOUGHT
IF EVER YOU X-MEN BECOME OVERWHELMED IN ANY MANNER, KNOW THAT THE SIEGE PERILOUS SHALL PROVIDE YOU A FRESH START...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, ROMA.

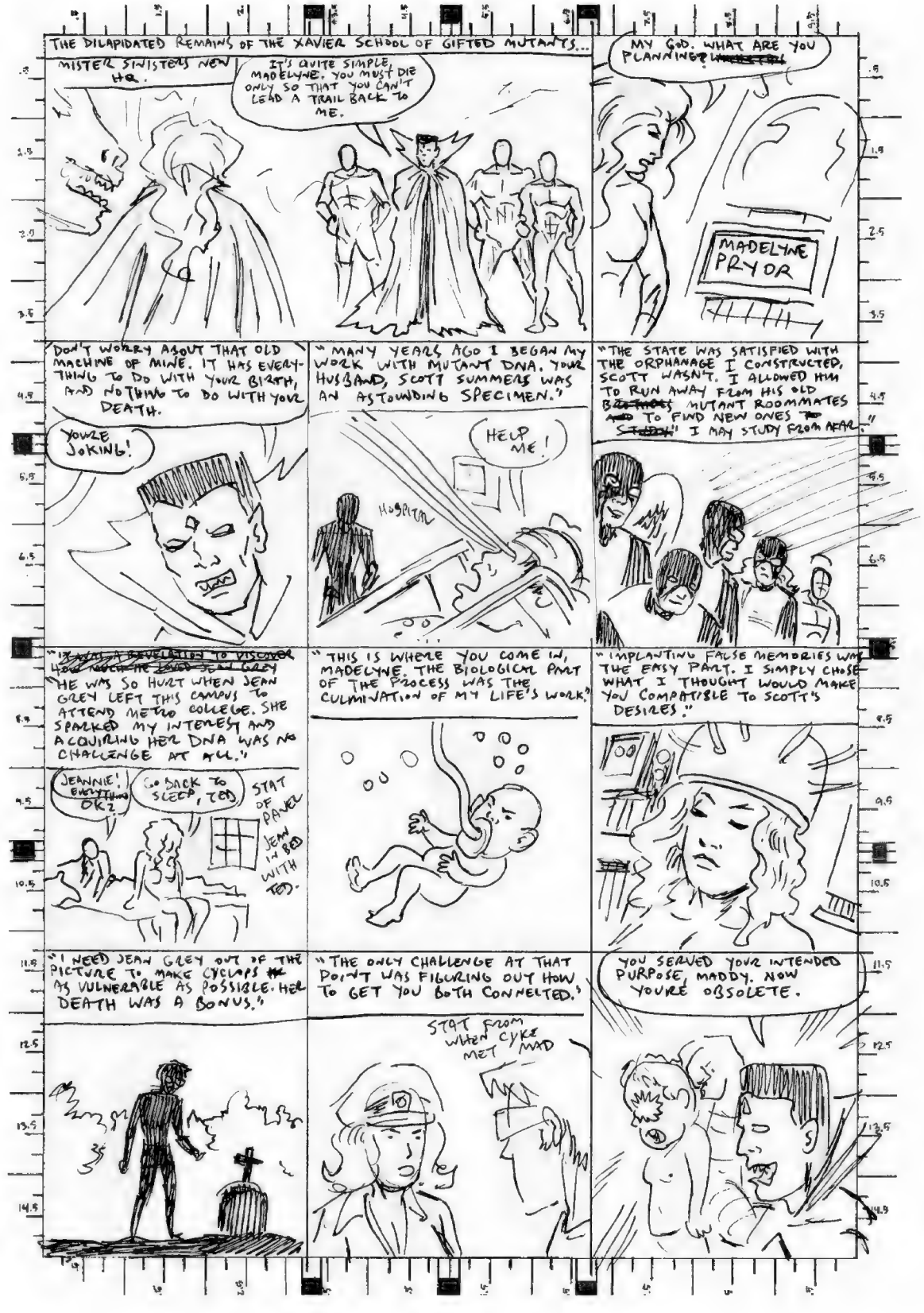
REAVERS HQ...
WHAT A FREAKIN' PIG STY!
YOU EXPECTED MORE FROM THESE GUYS, ROGUE?
THE REAVERS HAVE CLEARLY BEEN PILLAGING THE INNOCENT FOR SOME TIME. WHAT ABOUT GATEWAY?
HE HAS THE PUREST MIND I'VE EVER EXPERIENCED
TREASURE ALL AROUND
THE SUB BASEMENT...
THEY THINK GATEWAY CAN TRANSPORT US AROUND THE GLOBE WHILE WE SEARCH FOR THE MARAUDERS..
FOR BEING UTTER RUBES THE REAVERS HAVE SOME INCREDIBLY SOPHISTICATED DETECTION SOFTWARE.
SINCE IM THE MOST TECHNO LITERATE I'LL WORK ON LEADS HERE WHILE YOU AND THE REST GO HUNTING.
WHEN THE COAST IS CLEAR MADELYNE COMES THROUGH THE DIGITAL CHATTER WITH A TOUCH OF SELFISH CURIOSITY.
COULD THIS BE MISLABELED?
"WE SAW THE SAME NEWS FOOTAGE YOU SAW, GERALDO. I MOURN THE LOSS OF THE X-MEN."
I MOURN THE LOSS... OF MY FAMILY...
JEAN GREY? NO!
SCOTT! IM RIGHT HERE!

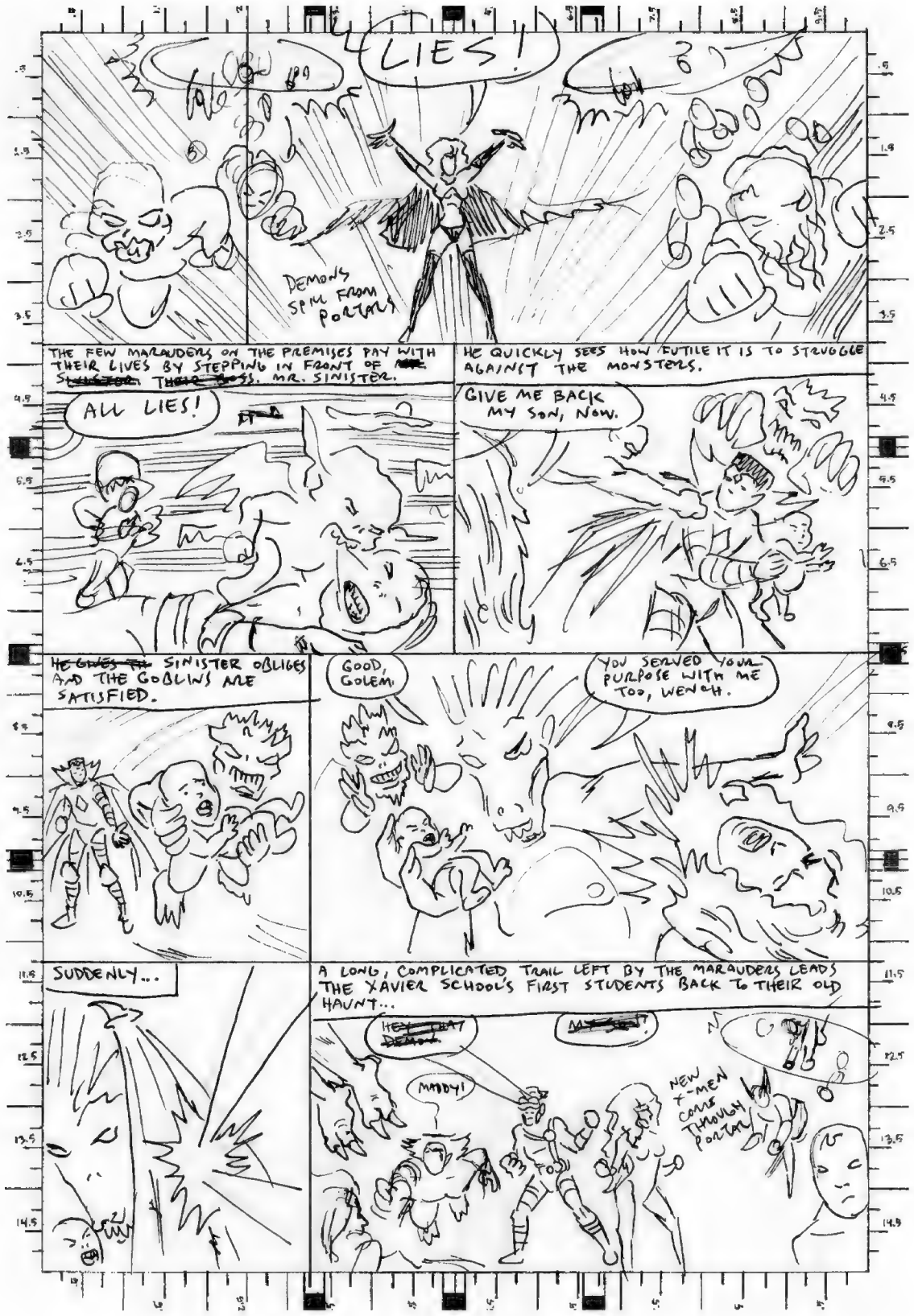

AFTER GATEWAY SENDS THE X-MEN AROUND THE GLOBE HE COULDN'T HELP BUT HEAR THE ERUPTION FROM THE BOWELS OF REAVERS HQ.
N'ASTIRH
YOU'RE VERY FAMILIAR...
IT'S ME, ANNIE, SILLY BIRD!
OKAY. SO I'M DREAMING THEN?
A LOT OF TRUTH CAN BE REVEALED DURING SLUMBER.
HEY.
MY HEADS COLD
WHAT ARE YOU DOING.
NO FACE
I'LL TAKE YOUR EYEBALLS LAST SO THAT YOU CAN SEE THE POINT. HA HA HA.
THE EMPTINESS YOU'VE FELT YOUR WHOLE LIFE NOW HAS SOME MERIT AFTER ALL!
PLEASE, STOP.
YOU REALLY COULDN'T EXPECT SCOTT TO HAVE TRUE FEELINGS FOR A HOLLOW FACSIMILE, DID YOU?
CYCLOPS
PLEASE...
HA HA SHE THOUGHT HAVING A BABY WOULD STRENGTHEN OUR BOND. HA HA.

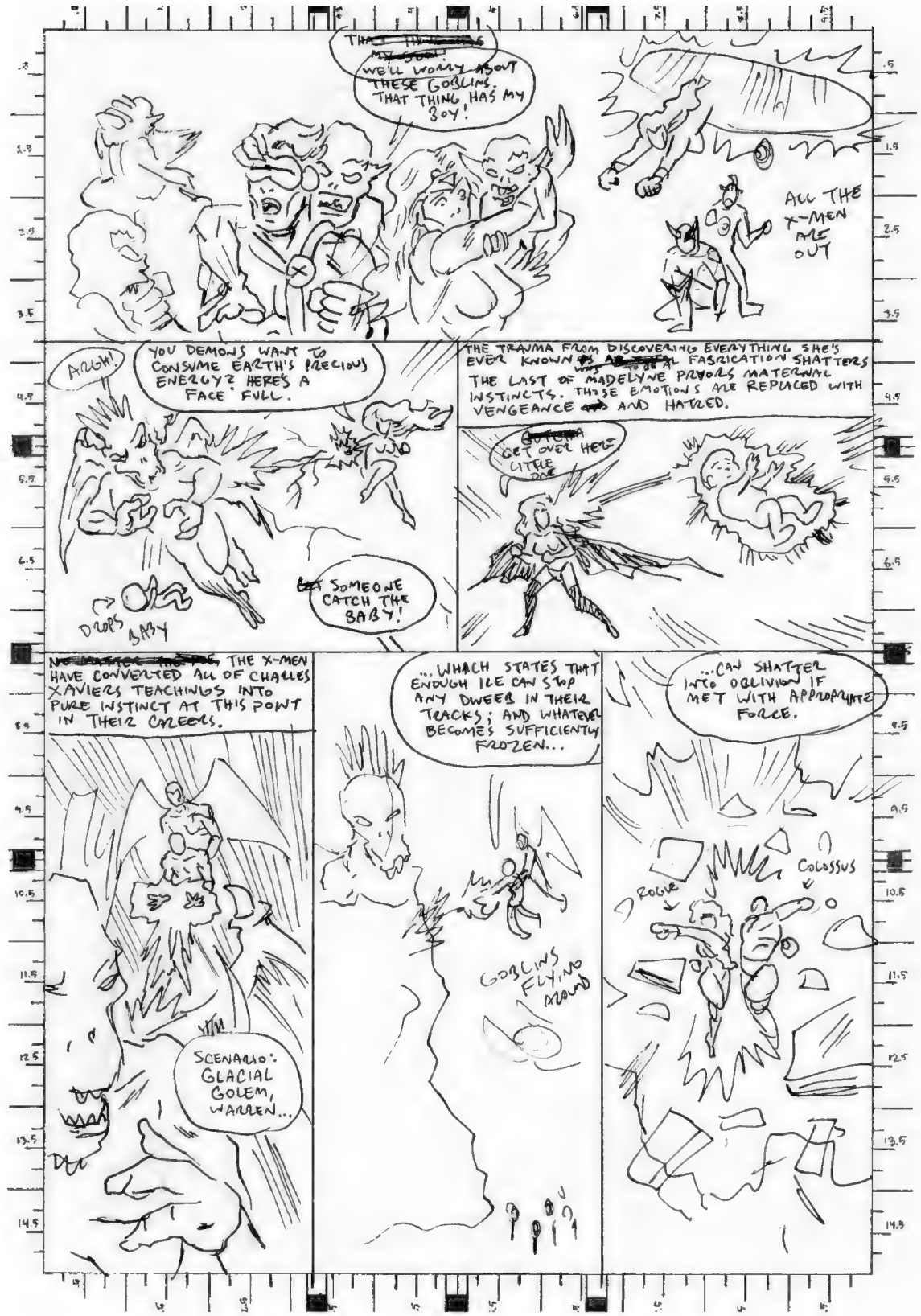

I'M GOING TO BE SICK.
HA HA HA HAHAW HA
PHOENIX OUTFIT
SPLAT!
BLOOD PUDDLE
YOU WERE CORRECT, MADDY, THIS IS ALL IN YOUR HEAD BUT I AM SURELY REAL.
I CAN OFFER YOU VENGEANCE TO EVERYONE WHO HAS CAUSED YOU PAIN. WOULDJA LIKE THAT, MADDY.
I WANT MY BABY BACK, NASTIHR. NASTIHR? HOW DO I KNOW YOUR NAME?
YOU CAN HAVE BOTH. I AM... EAGER TO PAIR YOU BACK UP WITH YOUR SON.
OUT OF THE KINDNESS OF YOUR HEART? NAME YOUR TERMS, GOBLIN!
YOU LOOK GOOD IN BLACK, GOBLIN QUEEN.
SNAP


I CAN SHOW YOU A VISION OF YOUR SON AT THIS VERY MOMENT IF YOU THINK YOURE STRONG ENOUGH TO HANDLE IT
DONT TOY WITH ME.
NASTIHR PLAYS HIS MOST VALUABLE CARD TO MADELYNE KNOWING EXACTLY HOW VULNERABLE SHE IS AT THIS MOMENT...
WHATS HE DOING TO NATHAN? MY GOD!
YOU AND YOUR MATE CREATED ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL MUTANTS ON EARTH. SINISTER WILL BE WEAPONIZING THE LAD. VERY PAWFUL PROCESS INDEED.
NASTIHRS INTENTION IS TO ULTIMATELY SACRIFICE THE MUTANT BABY AND REOPEN THE DEMON GATES TO EARTH, PERMANENTLY, BY APPEASING THE OLD ONES...
I WILL KILL SINISTER MYSELF.
LEAD ME TO THIS MONSTER.
AS YOU WISH, GOBLIN QUEEN!


ABRUPTLY...
X-MEN POUR OUT OF PORTAL
WHAT GIVES, GATEWAY?
HE WOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT US BACK LIKE THIS WITHOUT A REASON.
I SEE... THE COMMAND CENTER! MADELYNE WAS... IS HURT!
ON CONSTANT LOOP IN THE REAVERS WAR ROOM...
JEAN GREY IS ALIVE!
HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?
WOLVERINE, YOU KNEW?
STAY OUTTA MY HEAD, LOCKE.
I THOUGHT I WAS NUTS, BUT I PICKED UP HER SCENT IN THE ALLEY, WHEN WE FIRST TUSSLED WITH THE MARAUDERS.
NEITHER MADELYNE'S PSYCHIC SIGNATURE, NOR SCENT IS DETECTIBLE BY THE X-MEN.
GATEWAY. WE NEED PORTAL TO THE XAVIER SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS.


THE DILAPIDATED REMAINS OF THE XAVIER SCHOOL OF GIFTED MUTANTS...
MISTER SINISTER'S NEW HQ.
IT'S QUITE SIMPLE, MADELYNE. YOU MUST DIE ONLY SO THAT YOU CAN'T LEAD A TRAIL BACK TO ME.
MY GOD. WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING?
MADELYNE PRYOR
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT OLD MACHINE OF MINE. IT HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH YOUR BIRTH, AND NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR DEATH.
YOU'RE JOKING!
"MANY YEARS AGO I BEGAN MY WORK WITH MUTANT DNA. YOUR HUSBAND, SCOTT SUMMERS WAS AN ASTOUNDING SPECIMEN."
HELP ME!
HOSPITAL
"THE STATE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE ORPHANAGE I CONSTRUCTED, SCOTT WASN'T. I ALLOWED HIM TO RUN AWAY FROM HIS OLD MUTANT ROOMMATES TO FIND NEW ONES I MAY STUDY FROM AFAR."
"HE WAS SO HURT WHEN JEAN GREY LEFT THIS CAMPUS TO ATTEND METRO COLLEGE. SHE SPARKED MY INTEREST AND ACQUIRING HER DNA WAS NO CHALLENGE AT ALL."
"THIS IS WHERE YOU COME IN, MADELYNE. THE BIOLOGICAL PART OF THE PROCESS WAS THE CULMINATION OF MY LIFE'S WORK."
"IMPLANTING FALSE MEMORIES WAS THE EASY PART. I SIMPLY CHOSE WHAT I THOUGHT WOULD MAKE YOU COMPATIBLE TO SCOTT'S DESIRES."
JEANNIE! OK?
GO BACK TO SLEEP, TED.
STAT OF PANEL JEAN IN BED WITH TED.
"I NEED JEAN GREY OUT OF THE PICTURE TO MAKE CYCLOPS AS VULNERABLE AS POSSIBLE. HER DEATH WAS A BONUS."
"THE ONLY CHALLENGE AT THAT POINT WAS FIGURING OUT HOW TO GET YOU BOTH CONNECTED."
STAT FROM WHEN CYKE MET MAD
YOU SERVED YOUR INTENDED PURPOSE, MADDY. NOW YOU'RE OBSOLETE.


LIES!
DEMONS SPIN FROM PORTALS
THE FEW MARAUDERS ON THE PREMISES PAY WITH THEIR LIVES BY STEPPING IN FRONT OF ~~MR.~~ ~~SINISTER.~~ ~~THEIR BOSS.~~ MR. SINISTER.
HE QUICKLY SEES HOW FUTILE IT IS TO STRUGGLE AGAINST THE MONSTERS.
ALL LIES!
GIVE ME BACK MY SON, NOW.
~~HE GIVES THE~~ SINISTER OBLIGES AND THE GOBLINS ARE SATISFIED.
GOOD, GOLEM.
YOU SERVED YOUR PURPOSE WITH ME TOO, WENCH.
SUDDENLY...
A LONG, COMPLICATED TRAIL LEFT BY THE MARAUDERS LEADS THE XAVIER SCHOOL'S FIRST STUDENTS BACK TO THEIR OLD HAUNT...
~~HEY, THAT DEMON~~
~~MY SON!~~
MADDY!
NEW X-MEN COME THROUGH PORTAL


~~THE~~ ~~MY SON!~~ WE'LL WORRY ABOUT THESE GOBLINS. THAT THING HAS MY BOY!
ALL THE X-MEN ME OUT
ARGH!
YOU DEMONS WANT TO CONSUME EARTH'S PRECIOUS ENERGY? HERE'S A FACE FULL.
DROPS BABY
~~GET~~ SOMEONE CATCH THE BABY!
THE TRAUMA FROM DISCOVERING EVERYTHING SHE'S EVER KNOWN ~~IS ALL~~ ~~WAS~~ FABRICATION SHATTERS THE LAST OF MADELYNE PRYOR'S MATERNAL INSTINCTS. THOSE EMOTIONS ARE REPLACED WITH VENGEANCE ~~AND~~ AND HATRED.
~~GOTCHA~~ GET OVER HERE, LITTLE DOG
~~NO MATTER HOW HARD,~~ THE X-MEN HAVE CONVERTED ALL OF CHARLES XAVIER'S TEACHINGS INTO PURE INSTINCT AT THIS POINT IN THEIR CAREERS.
SCENARIO: GLACIAL GOLEM, WARREN...
...WHACH STATES THAT ENOUGH ICE CAN STOP ANY DWEEB IN THEIR TRACKS; AND WHATEVER BECOMES SUFFICIENTLY FROZEN...
GOBLINS FLYING AROUND
...CAN SHATTER INTO OBLIVION IF MET WITH APPROPRIATE FORCE.
ROGUE
COLOSSUS

EASY, MADELYNE. LET'S KEEP CALM.
YOU COULDN'T JUST BE SATISFIED TAKING MY HUSBAND? LET GO OF MY BABY!
JEAN
MADDY
PUT THE GIRLS AS FAR APART AS POSSIBLE
I CAN'T DO THAT, MADELYNE. YOU NEED SOME HELP.
I NEED TO MAKE SCOTT HURT AS MUCH AS I DO RIGHT NOW. I WANT MY CHILD!
JEAN IS LUCKY THAT MADELYNE ONLY JUST DISCOVERED HER POWERS HOURS BEFORE THIS CONTEST.
WE CAN HELP YOU. I PROMISE.
NO!
WHY COULDN'T YOU STAY DEAD, YOU COW!
MADELYNE TRIES TO PSYCHICALLY CRIPPLE JEAN GREY BUT THE DEFLECTION OF THE BURST COSTS THE CLONE DEARLY.
THE GOBLINS LOSE ALL NERVE WHEN THEIR QUEEN DIES. HUMBLY THEY HEAD HOME EXPECTING ROMA TO CAST SERIOUS JUDGEMENT UPON THEM.
SCOTT!
STORM
ROGUE

I'VE NOT HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING YOUNG NATHAN. HE HAS A TWINKLE IN HIS EYES, SCOTT.
EXCUSE ME, EVERYONE.
JEAN
WOLVIE
HUGS
IT SEEMS TRUE THAT THE DEMON INVASION IS AT AN END...
AND EXCEPT FOR POLARIS THE MARAUDERS HAVE ALL MET THEIR DEMISE, BUT...
THIS DEVIL IS THE ROOT CAUSE OF ALL THE TORMENT, MISERY, DEATH AND DESTRUCTION WE'VE RECENTLY EXPERIENCED. HIS MIND IS A BOTTOMLESS PIT OF EVIL AND IN GOOD CONSCIENCE I HESITATE TO LOOSEN MY GRIP ON HIM. WHAT DO YOU ADVISE?
YOU'RE ALL FAMILIAR WITH THE Z'NOX SCENARIO?
AT THE TIME,
WHEN THE ORIGINAL X-MEN PERFORMED THIS MANEUVER I WAS ALMOST AN ACT OF IMPROVISATION.
JAZZLIKE IMPROVIZATION.
THEY TRUSTED CHARLES XAVIERS DIRECTIONS, BUT THERE WAS SKEPTICISM ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT THEY COULD USE COLLECTIVE MIND-POWER TO STAVE OF AN ALIEN INVASION. THE TACTIC WAS 100% SUCCESSFUL.
MR. SINISTER WAS OBSERVING SCOTT EVEN THEN. HE KNOWS WHAT'S IN STORE..

AFTER THE JURY OF TWELVE RENDERS THEIR VERDICT AND CARRIES OUT THE SENTENCE...
MY GOD, I LET MADELYNE DOWN SO MANY TIMES.
ALL ROADS WOULD HAVE LED TO THIS MOMENT, OR WORSE, NO MATTER THE COURSE YOU WOULD HAVE TAKEN, SCOTT.
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN YOU GUYS WERE TOO SLICK TO DIE AT FREEDOM TOWER. ON TV.
SPEAKING OF WHICH...
LONGSHOT WOLFSBANE STORM ROGUE COLOSSUS PSYLOCKE
CYKLOP ICE BEAST MARVEL JEAN DARK
THE X-MEN BEGIN TO PROCESS ALL THEY'VE RECENTLY EXPERIENCED AS THEIR ADRENALINE LEVELS BEGIN TO NORMALIZE...
JEAN! WHAT HAPPENED?
HOW DID YOU COME BACK?
WHERE WERE YOU?
WHERE WAS PROFESSOR X IN ALL OF THIS? WE COULD HAVE USED HIS HELP MORE THAN EVER.
THE STUDENTS OF XAVIER WILL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO GAIN THE ANSWERS THEY SEEK JUST BEFORE THEIR UNMITIGATED ERADICATION.
TO BE CONT.

X-MEN
GRAND DESIGN

6
X-MEN
GRAND DESIGN

HUMANITY MUST CRUELLY ACCEPT DEATH AS THE FINALE OF THEIR STORY. THE X-MEN ARE NO EXCEPTION TO THIS NARRATIVE,.. UNTIL THEY ARE...
WHEN DID YOU DISCOVER RED WAS ALIVE? I'LL GUT YA IF YOU'VE BEEN KEEPING THIS FROM US ALL ALONG, ONE-EYE.
ONE DAY, I... SHE JUST GAVE ME A PHONE CALL... OUT OF THE BLUE...
JEAN SURROUNDED BY X-MEN
"FROM WHAT I COULD PIECE TOGETHER THE AVENGERS WERE DISPATCHED TO JAMAICA BAY BECAUSE OF A NAMOR SIGHTING."
"THE COCOON WAS IN THE VICINITY OF OUR SHUTTLE CRASH. THEY HANDED IT OFF TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR FOR ANALYSIS."
HERCULES
LIGHT CRACKING THROUGH COCOON
"JEAN WAS ALL BUT VAPORIZED BY THE TIME WE ENTERED EARTH'S ORBIT... WHEN PHOENIX GOT TO HER..."
"IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPLAIN BUT THE PERSON... THE THING ASSUMING THE ROLE OF OUR TEAMMATE WAS NOT JEAN. IT WAS PHOENIX WEARING A JEAN GREY SHELL."
PURE WHITE
MAYBE SOME CRACKLE
"THE WOMAN WE KNEW... THE WOMAN I LOVED WAS BUSY UNDERWATER STITCHING HERSELF BACK TOGETHER ALL THESE YEARS. ONE CELL AT A TIME. PHOENIX WAS TO THANK FOR THIS EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS A DECEPTIVE BASTARD."
WATER...
THE REST IS... PERSONAL, COMPLICATED. YOU GUYS THOUGH... WHERE IS THE PROFESSOR?
CHUCK'S GONE. POSSIBLY FOREVER.
!

CHARLES XAVIER'S FATE WAS CEMENTED THE MOMENT HE PLEDGED TO DEFEND MAGNETO IN COURT FOR HIS MANY ACTS OF TERRORISM, WOLVERINE EXPLAINS IN HIS OWN COLORFUL PARLANCE.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE USE OF YOUR LEGS, CHARLES. IT SUITS YOU,

PRISON BALLS MS PLASTIC

THE VOCAL COURT OF PUBLIC OPINION HAD THEIR VERDICT BEFORE ANY OFFICIAL EVIDENCE WAS PRESENTED...

"PUT HIM DOWN LIKE A RABID DAWG"

"IF MY CHILDREN GREW UP IN A WORLD WITHOUT MUTIES, I WOULDN'T MIND."

CHARLES XAVIER RECIEVES PILES OF DEATH THREATS AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, WHERE HE WAS DOING SOME ADJUNCT WORK.

A LOT OF BLUSTER. NO CREDIBILITY.

YOU'VE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOVE, PROFESSOR. WE'VE LOOKED INTO IT

FEDS

SMART PEOPLE CONCOCTED A COMPLEX SET OF PROCEDURES WHEN HANDLING MAGNETO, BUT HE COULD ALWAYS SENSE FERROUS METAL. HE COULD HAVE ESCAPED WHENEVER HE CHOSE, ALAS...

I'M READY FOR MY DAY IN COURT.

JUST BEFORE THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS...

YOU'RE WHITE AS A SHEET, CHARLES.

YOU DIDN'T FORGET THAT I READ EVERYBODIES THOUGHTS, DID YOU?

CAN READ

JURORS

THE IRONY IS THAT IF MAGNETO WOULD HAVE ABSCONDED INCARCERATION EARLIER, THERE MAY HAVE BEEN LESS BLOODSHED THAN THERE WAS ON THIS DAY.

MY GOD!

HUH?

ORDER IN THE COURT.

EXPLOSION OUT OF COURT WINDOWS

PROTESTORS

A COURT HOUSE JANITOR WITH A BURNING HATRED WANTED MAGNETO DEAD AT ANY COST.

EVERYBODY DIED INSIDE THE BUILDING EXCEPT FOR MAGNETO AND THE PEOPLE HE COULD REACH IN THE SPLIT SECOND HE HAD TO ACT.

DEAD

DEAD BODIES

SMOKE

JUDGE

PROFESSOR X

SMOKE

WAS THIS YOU, MAGNETO?

NO, YOUR HONOR, BUT I FEAR THAT UNTIL MY LAST BREATH, THIS KIND OF MAYHEM SHALL FOLLOW ME WHEREVER I GO...

MAGNETO DECIDES A SELF-IMPOSED EXILE IS THE BEST OPTION TO CURTAIL MORE DESTRUCTION.

ASTEROID M

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DRAW THE OWN CONCLUSIONS SURROUNDING THE COURTHOUSE MASSACRE

WE NEED TO KNOW EVERYTHING YOU CAN TELL US ABOUT THIS PLOT. WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE YOU HAD A HAND IN IT, XAVIER.

WHO ELSE WAS INVOLVED? WHERE IS MAGNETO HIDING?

YOU MAY GO NOW, PROFESSOR XAVIER...

WHAT! WAIT?

WITHIN DAYS...

THE PEOPLE WANT BLOOD, PRESIDENT KELLY.

BY THE ALMIGHTY. GOD WILL DELIVER THEM JUST THAT. GALLONS OF MUTIE BLOOD.

WHITE HOUSE

WE NEEDED SOMETHING LIKE THIS TO HAPPEN IN ORDER TO DUST OFF THE OLD MUTANT REGISTRATION ACT THAT STEVE AND I DRAFTED SOME TIME AGO. THE COUNTRY IS READY.

OVAL OFFICE

IN SPRINGFIELD, A WOMAN WAS CONFRONTED BY A TRUCK FULL OF DRUNKEN MISANTHROPES. SHE WAS ALSO A MUTANT...

HANGING

SILHOUETTE

MANY ARMS OR SOME OTHER MUTANT INDICATION

STATES ACROSS THE COUNTRY BEGIN BARRING MUTANT CHILDREN FROM ATTENDING PUBLIC SCHOOL UNTIL THEY'RE MEDICALLY PROVEN NOT TO BE A DANGER.

IN CALIFORNIA, A DOCTOR STANDS TRIAL FOR TERMINATING THE PREGNANCIES OF WOMEN CARRYING POTENTIAL MUTANTS WITHOUT THEIR CONSENT.

NOT GUILTY.

JURY BOX

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY. A DEBATE CONCLUDES REGARDING THE IMPENDING MUTANT REGISTRATION ACT.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY AND I APPRECIATE YOU ALL FOR CONSIDERING MY THOUGHTS ON THE MATTER.

CLASS AUDITORIUM

MUCH LIKE THE MAGNETO VERDICT, THOSE IN ATTENDANCE ALL HAD THEIR MINDS MADE UP BY THE TIME CHARLES XAVIER OPENED HIS MOUTH.

MUTANTS ARE IN BIG TROUBLE, STORM.

HEY THERE PROFESSOR.

CATCH!

MY HEAD...

HE'S WOKE!

THE ALLEY, BEFORE THE MUTANT MASSACRE.

HEALER WAS ABLE TO GIVE YA SOME LIFE BACK BUT EVEN HIS POWERS GOT LIMITS.

BACK AT THE MANSION CHARLES XAVIER WOULDN'T STOP PUSHING HIS LIMITS UNTIL HE KNEW THE MAGNITUDE OF HIS TRAUMA.

THE MOMENT HE YIELDED A DIAGNOSIS, HE WISHED HE HADN'T.

I CAN'T USE MY MENTAL GIFTS FOR MUCH BEYOND KEEPING MYSELF ALIVE. ANY PSYCHIC EXERTION MAY KILL ME...

HAVE YOU CONSULTED THE STARJAMMERS? SIKORSKY'S MEDICINE IS SUPERB TO ANYTHING THIS GALAXY HAS SEEN.

XAVIER IN CRAZY CONTRAPTION

SELF PRESERVATION HUMBLES CHARLES ENOUGH TO ASK FOR A PERSONAL FAVOR...

NO TROUBLE BEAMING YOU ABOARD AT ALL, CHUCK. WE HAD TO MAKE A PIT-STOP IN THE MILKY WAY ANYHOW.

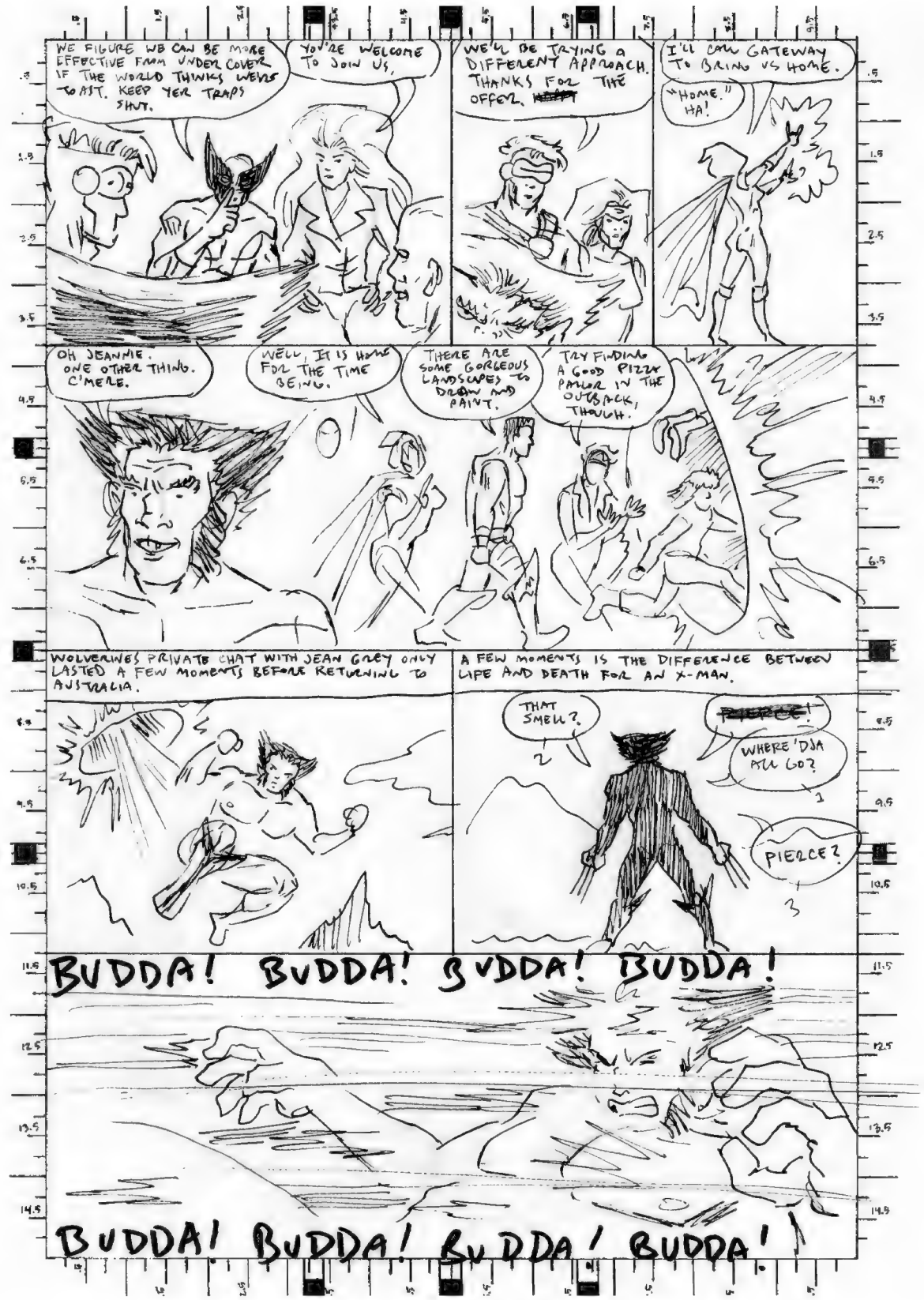
WHAT AILS YOU, SIR?

CHARLES WAS RECOVERING FROM SURGERY WHEN THE STARJAMMER NARROWLY ESCAPED DEATH-BIRD'S MOTHERSHIP...

STARJAMMER GETS HIT WITH BLAST UPON FLEEING.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE LIGHT YEARS DISTANCE FROM EARTH, COUPLED WITH THE DAMAGE TO THE SPACECRAFT MEANS THAT XAVIER MAY NEVER GET TO SEE THE X-MEN EVER AGAIN.

UNLESS YOU AN' JEANNIE HAVE BEEN SUCKIN' FACE THE WHOLE TIME SHE'S BEEN BACK, YOU SURELY KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED IN THE WAKE OF LOSIN' CHARLIE AS THE LOUDEST ADVOCATE FOR MUTANTKIND...
"MY FELLOW AMERICANS! YOU'VE BEEN LOUD AND CLEAR AND FOR A CHANGE, YOUR GOVERNMENT STOPPED THEIR BICKERING LONG ENOUGH TO LISTEN. THE MUTANT REGISTRATION ACT HAS PASSED."
"MUTANTS HAVE 30 DAYS TO SIGN UP AT THEIR NEAREST FEDERAL BUILDING BEFORE PENALTIES ARE IMPOSED."
"CHILDREN SHALL BE TESTED FOR ~~LATENT~~ DORMANT MUTATION UPON THEIR NEXT VISIT TO THE DOCTOR."
CLEAN!
"ANY CITIZEN USING ANY MUTANT HANDICAPS WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION SHALL FACE CERTAIN JAILTIME."
"STERILIZATION AND CAPITAL PUNISHMENT MAY BE ENFORCED FOR VIOLENT OFFENDERS."
"OUR SAFER AMERICA IS INSPIRING COUNTRIES ACROSS THE GLOBE TO FOLLOW OUR LEAD. A WORLD WIDE NETWORK IS IMPENDING."
EARTH
"MUTANT ACTIVISTS WERE INSTRUCTED WHERE THEIR DESIGNATED PROTEST ZONES ARE IN ~~THEIR~~ THEIR CITY."
PROJECT NIMROD
"I HAVE BEEN GIVEN AUTHORITY TO ACT WITH FORCE ON A MAJOR SCALE IF RIOTING OR VIOLENCE OCCURS DURING SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS.


WE FIGURE WE CAN BE MORE EFFECTIVE FROM UNDER COVER IF THE WORLD THINKS WE'RE TO AST. KEEP YER TRAPS SHUT.
YOU'RE WELCOME TO JOIN US.
WE'LL BE TRYING A DIFFERENT APPROACH. THANKS FOR THE OFFER. ~~KEEP~~
I'LL CALL GATEWAY TO BRING US HOME.
"HOME." HA!
OH JEANNIE. ONE OTHER THING. C'MERE.
WELL, IT IS HOME FOR THE TIME BEING.
THERE ARE SOME GORGEOUS LANDSCAPES TO DRAW AND PAINT.
TRY FINDING A GOOD PIZZA PARLOR IN THE OUTBACK, THOUGH.
WOLVERINES PRIVATE CHAT WITH JEAN GREY ONLY LASTED A FEW MOMENTS BEFORE RETURNING TO AUSTRALIA.
A FEW MOMENTS IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH FOR AN X-MAN.
THAT SMELL?
2
~~PIERCE!~~
WHERE'DJA ALL GO?
1
PIERCE?
3
BUDDA! BUDDA! BUDDA! BUDDA!
BUDDA! BUDDA! BUDDA! BUDDA!

THE MORE DAMAGE WOLVERINE SUSTAINS, THE LONGER IT TAKES FOR HIS MUTANT HEALING FACTOR TO MEND HIS BODY. ALMOST A WEEK, LATER...

'E'S COMIN' TO, BOSS!

WAKEY! WAKEY! HAW HAW

TOLDJA WE WEREN'T LYIN'.

GLAD YOU HAVE YOUR WITS ABOUT YOU, WOLVERINE.

JUST IN TIME FOR US TO TEAR YOU APART ALL OVER AGAIN.

YOUR FRIENDS? NO, I WOULDN'T EXPECT THEM TO SAVE YOU.

BEFORE I CUT YOUR TONGUE OUT AGAIN...

ANY IDEA WHERE THIS THING MAY HAVE TAKEN THEM?

GAZING AT THE SIEGE PERILOUS TRIGGERS A PSYCHIC PSYLOCKE LEFT INSIDE WOLVERINE'S MIND. SHE WANTED LOGAN TO HAVE AN ACCURATE VISION OF WHY THE X-MEN TOOK THE ULTIMATE OPTION.

AMBUSH!

I CAN'T KEEP THESE WINDS GOING FOR LONG.

YOU'RE BEING VERY UNCOOPERATIVE, WOLVERINE..

REAVERS, MERCS, DEATHSTORM DO YOUR WORST.

WOLVERINE WOULD HAVE BEEN TORTURED BY CYBORGS ALL NIGHT IF THE WEATHER DIDN'T DECIDE TO DEWAY METEOROLOGISTS ACCROSS THE GLOBE.

RIPS 'EM OFF CRAZY

HEY, GIRLY, LEND A FELLA A HAND.

GOT ANYTHING TO DRINK?

NOT LONG AFTER THE X-MEN MADE THE AUSTRALIAN OUTSACK THEIR HOME THEY COULDN'T ACCOUNT FOR ALL THE MISSING FOOD IN THEIR RESERVES. THIS GIRL IS THE REASON THEIR ESTIMATES ALWAYS CAME UP SHORT.

GOOD MORNIN'! I WAS JUST ABOUT TO HURL THINKIN' I WAS TOUCHIN' A DEAD DUDE. I'M JUBILEE.

PICKED UP YER SCENT FROM THIS HIDEY-HOLE A WEEK AGO. GIMME SOME WATER IF YA GOT ANY...

HOW LONG I BEEN OUT, KID?

COUPLE DAYS. SERIOUS MUNCHIES GOIN' ON, I BET. RIGHT?

JUBES SNEAKING PAST THE MEKES WITH FOOD.

JUBILEE BECAME QUITE ADEPT AT PILFERING FROM THE HYPER-VIGILANT X-MEN BUT THE STAKES WERE MUCH LOWER THEN...

"YEAH? WELL, I'VE FOLLOWED YOU GOOBERS HERE LIKE A MONTH AGO.

MALL OF AMERICA

WE'RE DONE SHOPPING GATEWAY. BRING US HOME.

MALL BASEMENT

X-LADIES SHOPPING

UH... HI THERE

STARVIN'. BUT THEY MUST BE LOOKIN' FOR MY BUTT. IT AIN'T SAFE OUT THERE.

STUFF IT, GIMPY JOES. THEY TRY ANY GOOFY CRAP I HAVE SOMETHIN' FOR 'EM.

A FEW MORE DAYS REST IN JUBILEE'S SECRET ROOM DOES WOLVERINE SOME GOOD.

CALL ME FLO-JOE NIGHTENGALE. WHAT HAPPENS NOW, WOLVIE?

ASK ME NO QUESTIONS I TELLYA NO LIES, KIDDO.

WOLVERINE IS ONLY AROUND ~~#~~ 50% HIS PEAK HEALTH, BUT THIS HAS NEVER STOPPED HIM BEFORE WHERE ~~REVENGE IS CONCEIVED~~, A VENDETTA IS CONCEIVED.

THE PAY IS RIGHT THOUGH, EH, COLE?

MACON, REESE, SHUT UP AND LET'S FIND HIS CARCASS.

MERCENARIES

HE RECOGNIZES THE STINK OF PIERCE'S ~~AROMA~~ AND GIVES ~~REMEMBER~~ THEM A REMINDER OF THEIR PREVIOUS ENCOUNTER.

WOLVERINE OUTSTANDING DOWN HERE

THE REAVERS MISTAKENLY THINK BULLETS CAN STOP WOLVERINE'S BERZERKER RAGE.

DONALD PIERCE KNOWS A MUCH BIGGER CHARGE WOULD BE NEEDED TO MERELY SLOW LOGAN DOWN.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO MEND YOURSELF BACK TOGETHER WHEN THIS NEXT SHELL RIPS THE REST OF THE MEAT FROM YOUR BONES?

YO! BOUGIE DWEEB! OVER HERE!

SUCK SOME PLASMA SIDEWAYS!

I'VE SEEN ENOUGH FLICKS TO KNOW THAT RUBBLE WON'T STOP HIM FOR LONG. RIGHT?

LOOKING AT RUBBLE

KID, HE'S A PAN CAKE. I GOTTA GO FIND MY FRIENDS. YOU COMIN' OR NOT?

WOLVERINE DOESN'T TELL THE CHILD ABOUT THE PROBABLE CHANCE THAT THE SIEGE PERILOUS SENT ~~HIS~~ ~~FOUR~~ THE X-MEN TO ~~EACH~~ DIMENSIONS UNREACHABLE BY EARTH'S CURRENT TECHNOLOGY. HIS INTUITION IS HALF ACCURATE.

DISCO DAZZLER

ALYSON BLAIR/DAZZLER WAS PROJECTED INTO A UNIVERSE WHERE SHE NEVER LOST HER FAME AS A MUSICIAN AND ACTRESS.

DISCODAZZLER

PETER RASPUTIN/COLOSSUS ENTERED A WORLD WHERE MUTANTS DON'T EXIST, BUT HE DID RETAIN HIS CREATIVITY.

AMAZING SHOW, PETER!

ROGUE IS HAPPY AS A NATIVE-BORN INHABITANT OF SOME OTHER EARTH'S SAVAGE LAND. SHE'S NEVER KNOWN A LIFE WHERE TOUCHING PEOPLE RESULTED IN FATAL CONSEQUENCES.

THREE ~~MUTANTS~~ X-MEN WHO TRAVELED BEYOND THE THRESHOLD OF SIEGE PERILOUS ARE STILL ON THE SAME EARTH AS LOGAN, BUT THEY ARE FOREVER CHANGED BY ROMA'S TRINKET...

ORORO MONROE/STORM WAKES UP AS AN AMNESIAC TEENAGE IN A CAIRO, ILLINOIS HOSPITAL. HER PAPERWORK CALLS HER "JANE DOE". SHE KNOWS THAT'S NOT RIGHT.

ESCAPING HOTEL

HOSPITAL GOWN

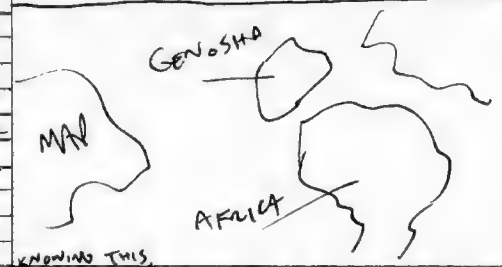
THE FORMERLY ENGLISH BETSY BRADDOCK/PSYLOCKE NOW ADORNS THE SKIN OF ~~AN~~ A DEADLY ASSASSIN. IT'S ~~SOMETHING OF~~ COMPLICATED!

ALEX SUMMERS/HAVOK LANDED ON A DOORSTEP ~~IN CONCORD~~ OF ~~AN~~ GENOSHA'S COMMANDER GENERAL. AFTER ~~A~~ PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION HE WAS RUSHED THROUGH BOOT CAMP. ~~IN THE STORY THEMES DISCUSSED IN THE PREVIOUS ISSUE, THE WORLD'S GOD HAS GIVEN THE CAPTAIN OATHS. THEIR SPECIAL~~ MEDICAL TESTS ON HIS BODY CAUSE NO RED FLAGS, ANOTHER GIFT FROM ROMA, THE GODDESS OF THE OMNIVERSE.

SIR, YES SIR!

GENOSHA IS A SMALL AND MYSTERIOUS ISLAND NATION ON THE WORLD STAGE. COMPLETELY SELF-SUSTAINING THE ISLAND ACTUALLY EXPORTS FAR MORE GENEROUSLY THAN NECESSARY, ALMOST TO BRIBE THE OTHER COUNTRIES AND SUPERPOWERS TO LOOK THE OTHER WAY.

THE CITIZENRY HAVE AN OPULENT STANDARD OF LIVING CONSIDERING THEIR SYSTEM TO BE "NEARLY UTOPIAN". EMIGRATION ISN'T POSSIBLE BUT THE RESIDENTS DON'T MIND.

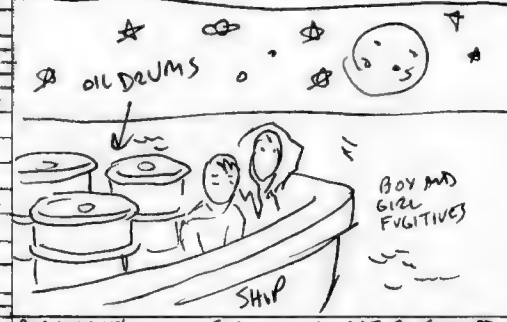


RESORT TOWN BEACH IMAGE

KNOWING THIS,

WHY THEN, ARE THESE TWO YOUNG GENOSHANS SNEAKING AWAY TO THE UNITED STATES ON THIS LATEST TRANSPORT OF LITHIUM?

THE RARE SCENARIO WHERE A GENOSHAN WANDERS OFF THE ISLAND TRIGGERS THE NATION'S ELITE PRESS GANG INTO ACTION WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BRINGING THE CITIZEN BACK HOME, FORCIBLY IF NECESSARY.



PRESS GANG LOOKING MENACING

PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE MUTANTS ARE CONSIDERED STATE PROPERTY IN GENOSHA. THE ENDLESS SUPPLY OF PROVISIONS, ENERGY, AND LUXURY MINERALS IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE SECRET LABOR FORCE.

IN FACT, DOCTORS IDENTIFY DORMANT MUTANT GENES AMONGST THE YOUTH WHEN THEY'RE THEN HANDED TO THE GENENGINEER WHO MANIPULATES THEIR DNA, TURNING THEM INTO MUTATES WHO MAY THEN FILL ROLES IN ANY LABOR GAPS.

THE GENOSHAN MAGISTRATES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DEALING HARSH PUNISHMENTS TO THE WORKING CLASS IN THE RARE OCCURENCE THAT A MUTANT OR MUTATE BECOME INSUBORDINATE.

THE FUGUIST ALEX SUMMERS IS A RISING STAR AMONGST THE MAGISTRATES, SPECIALIZING IN THE RETIREMENT PROGRAM FOR OLDER LABORERS.

SINCE PUTTING AN END TO TRICKSTERS PLANS FORGE HAS OPTED FOR TOTAL ISOLATION AS A KIND OF PENANCE FOR HIS PART OF THE RECENT CALAMITIES. HE'S BEEN LIVING WITH THE BURDEN OF SACRIFICING THE X-MEN FOR THE GREATER GOOD AND MOURNING THE DECISION, UNTIL TODAY...

THE ONLY TRUSTWORTHY PEOPLE FORGE MAY SHARE HIS VISIONS WITH RESIDE ON MUIR ISLAND.

THE PAST FEW DAYS HAVE BEEN PRETTY EVENTFUL HERE TOO. I FISHED POLARIS FROM A PLANE CRASH ON HER WAY TO THE ISLAND.

"OUR TESTS INDICATE THAT POLARIS HAS SOMEHOW PURGED THAT PARASITE, BUT SHE'S CERTAINLY BEEN... ALTERED. MOIRA CAN'T MAKE HEADS OR TAILS..."

FORGE IMMEDIATELY JETS TO MUIR ISLAND AS FAST AS POSSIBLE. EVEN THOUGH HE CAN BUILD WHATEVER HE IMAGINES HE IS STILL BOUND BY EARTHLY PHYSICS. HE CATASTROPHIZED EVERY HOUR IT TOOK TO GET THERE, AND SEEING BANSHEE IN ONE PIECE WAS EXPECTED.

MADROX LOOKING AT SOMED LEGION

FORLES SHIP

GROSSED OUT POLARIS

THE UNFORTUNATE SOULS DECIDED TO INVADE THE ISLAND, FORGE. BIG MISTAKE AS YOU CAN WELL SEE.

WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED TO 'EM?

FORGE

REAVERS ARE MUSHY PULPS

REAVERS TURNED TO MUSH.

DAVID HAPPENED TO THEM.

BAD GUYS! BAD BRAINS! GUNS! DID I DO RIGHT? I THINK I LIKED IT TOO MUCH.

SICK MADROX

WHAT WAS THEIR PURPOSE FOR COMIN' HERE? ANY IDEA?

FROM WHAT DAVID PULLED FROM THEIR HEADS BEFORE POPPING THEM LIKE PIMPLES, IT SEEMS THEY HAD AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE X-MEN.

BONE CRUSHERS TANK SIDEWAYS

POLAR'S GIANT

THEY WERE ON THE HUNT? I KNEW OUR GUYS WERE STILL KICKIN'. SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT. WE GOTTA FIND 'EM.

THE FIRST PLACE YOU AND I SHOULD START LOOKIN' FOR CLUES...

"THE XAVIER SCHOOL."

MUTATE BODY SUIT. NOT HOODY

I HEARD YOUR CRIES FROM ACROSS THE OCEAN. I'M GLAD MY INSTRUCTIONS WERE CLEAR. YOU'RE SAFE NOW. I PROMISE.

MY NAME IS JEAN.

MANSION SHAMBLES

FIRST LETS GET YOU BOTH SOME GOOD FOOD AND REST. THEN YOU CAN TELL ME ALL ABOUT GENOSHA. WE WANT TO HELP YOUR PEOPLE.

LOOKS LIKE THE MANSION HASN'T BEEN INHABITED FOR A GOOD, LONG WHILE, FORGE.

MY INSTRUMENTS DON'T LIE, BANSHEE.

IVY ON MANSION

BY MY READINGS THERE SHOULD BE AT LEAST FIVE PEOPLE IN HERE SOMEWHERE. ALL MUTANTS.

MANSION INTERIOR CUTTERS

MOMENTS LATER...

DO MY EYES ALLS DECEIVE ME? JEANNE?

HI BANSHEE.

AFTER JEAN GREY RECITES THE TRUNCATED VERSION OF HER OBLIGATORY REINCARNATION STORY.

GLAD TO HAVE YOU BACK, JEANNIE. WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THE X-MEN ARE ALSO ALIVE AND MAY BE IN SOME TROUBLE.

YEAH, THEY'RE ALIVE...

THEY HELPED US DURING A MAJOR CONFRONTATION HERE NOT TOO LONG AGO.

THEY'RE FINE, FAR AS WE KNOW. THEY JUST WANT TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE.

JEAN

WHERE ARE MY MANNERS. BANSHEE, FORGE MEET JENNY AND PHILLIP. THEY'RE SEEKING ASYLUM FROM GENOSHA. IT'S A BAD PLACE TO BE A MUTANT! EVER HEAR OF THE PLACE?

UH... LOOKS LIKE THEIR SUITS HAVE SOME KINDA TRACKING GIMMICK BUILT IN...

AS IF ON CUE...
FREEZE! ALL OF YOU!
WE ARE HERE ON A SANCTIONED MANDATE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GENOSHA TO BRING STATE PROPERTY, THOSE TWO MUTATES BACK TO THE MOTHERLAND.
COMPLY WITH OUR REQUESTS OR FACE FORCEFUL CONSEQUENCES.
HEH HEH
HAHAHAHA... YOU GUYS READY? HA!
MOMENTS LATER...
WE'LL DUMP THESE MOOKS OFF TO THE NEAREST FEDS.
SOUNDS GOOD. THESE KIDS ARE MARKED. WE HAVE TO TAKE THEM TO SAFETY.
OUTSIDE MANSION
FOLLE BANSHEE ON THIS SIDE
X FACTOR ON THIS SIDE
DOGPILE OF GENOSHAN OPERATIVES

MADRIPOOR, SOUTHEAST ASIA...
WHY DO WE GOTTA REST OUR DOGS HERE? THIS TOWN IS CREEPER CENTRAL!
2 REASONS, JUBES...
1, I HAVE THIS HERE SAFEHOUSE TO RECUPERATE UNTIL I GET CLOSER TO 100%. 2, I'M PICKING UP THE SCENT OF AN X-MAN HERE.
REALLY?
YUP.
SHE'S OUTSIDE THE WINDOW RIGHT NOW, MATTER OF FACT...
HEY, PSYLOCKE. SINCE WHEN IS THIS YOUR STYLE OF FIGHTING?
SILVER SAMURAI IS PAYING A KING'S RANSOM FOR YOUR HEAD, LITTLE MAN.
SO MUCH FOR "SAFE HOUSE."
UNABLE TO MATCH BRAWN WITH WOLVERINE THE NEWLY CROWNED ASSASSIN OF THE HAND HAS A WEALTH OF MUTANT ABILITY AT HER DISPOSAL, LIKE HER PSYCHIC KNIFE
SOMEHOW THE BARRIERS INSIDE WOLVERINE'S CLOUDY MIND REKINDLES PSYLOCKES MEMORIES BEFORE PASSING THROUGH THE SEIGE PERILOUS.
I... I DIDN'T GIVE THE OTHERS A CHOICE, LOGAN. I MENTALLY FORCED THE X-MEN TO GO THROUGH THE SEIGE. TO ESCAPE!
NO SENSE IN CRYIN'. MIGHT AS WELL HELP RECONNECT WITH THE OTHERS AND MAKE THINGS RIGHT.

THE OVAL OFFICE...

HODGE, YOU PROMISED TO KEEP A LID ON THOSE DAMN GENOSHANS. NOW I HAVE A HEAP OF MAGISTRATES IN FEDERAL HOLDING ON ALL KINDS OF SERIOUS CHARGES...

GENOSHA

THE PRESIDENT OF THIS PLACE, KELLY, SHE'S QUITE RIGID WHEN IT COMES TO THE LETTER OF THE LAW OVER HERE... IN OTHER WORDS, SHE'S NOTHING LIKE YOU! HA HA HA...

VERY WITTY. A LITTLE BIT OF GOOD DID COME FROM THE SCUFFLE. YOUR MILITANTS OVERHEARD SOMETHING ABOUT THE X-MEN POSSIBLY BEING ALIVE. NO BODIES WERE EVER DISCOVERED AT FREEDOM TOWER. MY GUT TELLS ME YOUR GUYS ARE CREDIBLE..

I HAVE A SEXY IDEA ABOUT HOW TO RID OURSELVES OF OUR "X" PROBLEM ONCE AND FOR ALL. IT MIGHT ACTUALLY BE LEGAL TOO, BUT IT SHOULD STILL BE FUN.

X-FACTOR HEADQUARTERS...

DO YOU SEE THIS?

DISGUSTING!

IN AN AGREEMENT WITH GENOSHAN AUTHORITIES, THE ROGUE AGENTS WHO SURREPTITIOUSLY INFILTRATED OUR BORDERS TO KIDNAP A FEW VACATIONERS ARE BEING EXTRADITED TO THEIR COUNTRY FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION. PRESIDENT KELLY HAD THIS TO SAY...

MAP OF GENOSHA

MY FELLOW AMERICANS, I'VE SPOKEN WITH THE PRESIDENT OF GENOSHA WHO EXPRESSES TOTAL EMBARRASSMENT AT THE ACTIONS OF THESE STRAY SOLDIERS.

SHE PROMISES SWIFT, DECISIVE ACTION AND WILL IMMEDIATELY CHARGE THESE PIRATES THE MOMENT THE STEP FOOT ON GENOSHAN SOIL.

GENOSHA HAS BEEN A FRIEND TO OUR COUNTRY FOR DECADES AND I THINK IT WOULD BE FOOLISH TO UPSET OUR TRADE AGREEMENTS BECAUSE A FEW GRUNTS WENT OFF THE RANCH...

MY GOD, IT'S US AGAINST THE WORLD AT THIS POINT...

CAIRO, ILLINOIS. THE AIMLESS ORORO HAS BEEN EARNING HER MEALS EACH DAY THANKS TO HER OLD HABITS OF THIEVERY.

SHE'S BEEN STAKING OUT A NOUVEAU RICHE DRUG DEALER FOR DAYS EXPECTING HE'D HAVE MANY VALUABLES THAT WOULD KEEP HER BELLY FULL FOR A WHILE...

LUCKY FOR HER STORM, ANOTHER THIEF BEATS HER TO THE SCORE, AND THUSLY FALLS INTO THE TRAP THAT COULD HAVE CAUSED HER SOME DISTRACTION AT A MINIMUM.

STORM REMEMBERS NOTHING BEFORE EXITING THE SIEGE PERILOUS BUT HAS RETAINED A FEW OTHER INSTINCTS BESIDES LARCENY...

HER DISTRACTION WAS ALL GAMBIT NEEDED TO SLIDE OUT OF PERIL.

NO WAY TO TREAT MY NEW MON AMI...

THE HEAD TRAUMA FROM THE HOUND KNOCKS A FEW OF STORM'S BURIED MEMORIES LOOSE.

DANKS FER DE HELP, CHERIE.

HAVE YOU EVER... HEARD OF THE X-MEN?

GAMBIT HAS STRONG INSTINCTS OF HIS OWN WHICH DRIVES HIM TO ACCOMPANY ORORO ON HER TREK BACK TO WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK, ROBBING AND STEALING ALONG THE WAY.

THE RUNES OF THE XAVIER SCHOOL. ~~[illegible]~~ 1 WEEK LATER.

FASCINATING. THANKS FOR ALLOWING ME TO GLIMPSE YOUR RECENT PAST. NOW, THIS PSIONIC BOLT MAY HELP SHAKE THE COBWEBS AWAY. READY?

~~THE~~ WHAT'S LEFT OF THE DANGER ROOM...

YOU'VE COME AT THE PERFECT TIME, ORORO..

I CALLED A MEETING WITH THE STRONGEST MUTANTS CERESIO COULD FIND BECAUSE WE'VE GOT A MAJOR PROBLEM.

X-FACTOR, CABLE AND THE NEW MUTANTS, BANSHEE FORCE

WAIT! THE X-MEN ARE ALIVE?

THE MUTANT REGISTRATION ACT IS ONLY THE SYMPTOM OF A MUCH BIGGER PROBLEM...

DO YOU HEAR THAT RUMBLE?

LOOKING UP

EXPLOSIONS HIT MANSION

A FEW YOUNGER MUTANTS, INCLUDING STORM WERE ABLE TO EVACUATE THE DANGER ROOM BEFORE THE EXITS GOT SEALED.

THE PRESSGANG FROM GENOSHA!

THEY'RE HERE TO CLAIM PHILLIP AND JENNY!

JEAN GREY'S HASTY TELEPATHIC VISIONS ARE ONLY PARTLY CORRECT. THE PRESS GANG WILL BE HAPPY TO GO HOME WITH ANY MUTANT BAIT THEY CAN GET WITHIN THEIR GRASP...

PRESS GANG

MEMBERS OF THE GENOSHAN PRESS GANG ARE GROOMED AND TRAINED THEIR ENTIRE LIVES TO ~~[illegible]~~ HANDLE UNRULY MUTANT THREATS.

STUN GRENADES WON'T DO SQUAT AGAINST THAT FLYIN' MUTIE...

STORM

THE NEWLY PROGRAMMED ALEX SUMMERS IS BUT ONE IN A SQUAD OF GENOSHAN MAGISTRATES ASSIGNED TO SUPPORT THE PRESS GANG.

GOT 'ER!

HANDFUL OF MUTIES. GOOD HAUL.

LOAD 'EM UP.

WE CAN BE SKYWARD IN TWO MINUTES

DIRECTOR HODGE. WE WERE ABLE TO PROCUR 5 ALPHA-LEVEL MUTANTS PER YOUR INSTRUCTION.

YOUNG ONES, BUT STRONGER THAN OUR INSTRUMENTS CAN READ.

GENOSHA...

GOOD BOYS N' GIRLS. I'LL MAKE SURE YOU HAVE SAFE PASSAGE AS YOU EXIT AMERICAN AIRSPACE.

X-TINCTION AGENDA IS UNDER WAY! HA HA HA

THE MUTANTS STUCK INSIDE THE DANGER ROOM CONTINUE TO SCRAPE, CLAW, BLAST AND FIGHT THEIR WAY OUT OF THE CAVE-IN UNTIL CANNONBALL GETS ANXIOUS

JEAN GREY HAD BEEN FEEDING EVERYBODY UPDATES FROM TOPSIDE THE ENTIRE TIME THEY WERE UNDERGROUND.

I CANT GET A READ ON THEM. STORM AND THE NEW MUTANTS MUST BE HALFWAY TO GENOSHA BY NOW.

DIGGING OUT OF HOLE

EVEN THOUGH THE XAVIER SCHOOL SITS ON A FEW REMOTE ACRES, THE CONFRONTATION WITH THE PRESS GANG AROUSED PLENTY OF ATTENTION.

NEWS CREWS

FIRST-RESPONDERS

COP CAR

S.H.IELD.

WAS A CRYIN' SHAME. I DIDN'T FIGHT IN THE BIG WAR TO HAVE SOME FOREIGN NINCOMPOOPS INVADE OUR LAND AND KIDNAP OUR CITIZENS...

SOME KINDA DIPLOMATIC, BEAURACRATIC NONSENSE HAS OUR HANDS TIED.

HELICOPTER BEHIND

WHICH OF YOU MUTIES FANCIES YEYSELFS THE LEADERS OF THIS OUTFIT?

THIS GENOSHA THING IS OUTTA HAND. P.O.TUS. WANTS TO HAVE A SIT-DOWN WITH YOU IN THE OVAL OFFICE AT 0800 HRS TOMORROW. HAVE SOME STRATEGY PREPARED FOR HOW YER GONNA GET YOUR FRIENDS BACK!

OVAL OFFICE. 0800HRS, THE NEXT DAY.

APOLOGIES FOR MEETING LIKE THIS. I WANTED TO BE THE ONE TO TELL YOU ALL BUT IM SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THESE CONDITIONS AS A MATTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY...

I DON'T KNOW WHICH OF YOU CAN READ THE TOP SECRET INTEL FROM MY BRAIN. I DON'T KNOW WHICH OF YOU COULD SHOOT LAZERS OUT OF YOUR EYE-BALLS...

THIS MEETING IS OFF THE RECORD. THE UNITED STATES CANNOT OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZE ANYTHING WE'LL BE DISCUSSING.

GENOSHA SCREWED UP BIGTIME BY NABBING OUR OWN CITIZENS LIKE THAT BUT OUR NATIONS MUTUAL ALLIES AND THE WORLDS ECONOMIC EQUILIBRIUM HAVE MY HANDS TIED

THAT TINY COUNTRY PROVIDES THE WORLD WITH RARE AND PRECIOUS EXPORTS. THEY'RE OUR BIGGEST SOURCE OF OIL FOR ONE...

MR. PRESIDENT. WE BELIEVE THEIR EXPORTS ARE THE RESULT OF CALLOUS EXPLOITATION OF MUTANT LABOR...

NEITHER HERE NOR THERE. I'M HERE TO PERSONALLY GIVE YOU MY WORD THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT PREVENT YOU FROM RECOVERING YOUR FRIENDS, BUT SHOULD YOU BE DISCOVERED WILL BE FORCED TO DISAVOW ANY KNOWLEDGE ON THE SUBJECT. IE DON'T GET CAUGHT AND CREATE AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT.

GENOSHA. VERY LATE AT NIGHT.

MASTER. THE X-MEN HAVE ARRIVED. THE SOUTHERN BEACH.

I'M NOT LEAVING HERE WITHOUT MY KIDS.

JEAN?

EVERYBODY... PREPARE FOR AN AMBUSH.

FOR REASONS UNKNOWN TO THE X-MEN THAT PSYCHIC BLAST FROM JEAN WOULD BE THE LAST TIME ANY OF THEM WOULD BE ABLE TO USE THEIR MUTANT POWERS FOR ~~SOMETIME~~. A WHILE.

INVADERS!

TAKE THEM ALIVE IF POSSIBLE.

MAGISTRATES AND PRESS GANG SHOW UP.

HAVOK?

ALEX?

~~THE~~ ALEX SUMMERS MUTANT ABILITY CAN'T SERIOUSLY HARM CYCLOPS, BUT ~~IT~~ THEY CERTAINLY ANGER THE OLDER BROTHER AT THIS ~~MOM~~ MOMENT.

THE MELEE KNOCKS HAVOK'S TRUE CONSCIOUSNESS BACK INTO HIM.

HOW COULD YOU!

BOUT TO HIT CYKE WITH GUN BUTT

MY GOD. WHAT HAVE I DONE...

SINGLE FILE, MUTIES.

X-MEN IN BONDAGE
MAYBE CYCLOPS ON STRETCHER

~~WITHOUT~~ THE CONFRONTATION AT THE BEACH PROVIDED AN EXCELLENT DIVERSION FOR KEEPING GENOSHA'S CITADEL VULNERABLE TO INFILTRATION.

ALRIGHT, MR. GENENGINEER, ONE SIMPLE QUESTION, BUB.

WHERE DO YOU HAVE OUR FRIENDS LOCKED UP?

I CAN'T GET A READING. MY MENTAL POWERS ARE INHIBITED.

HOW DID YOU KNOW TO COME HERE? WHO LEAKED THIS INFORMATION?

MY PAL HERE HEARD THOSE KIDS WIMPERING ALL THE WAY FROM MADRIPOOR.

LORD HELP ME!

HANDS GUN TO JUBILEE

NOW YOU HAVE TWO OPTIONS, BUB. VOLUNTARILY SPILL YER GUTS OR I'LL SPILL 'EM FOR YA!

JLP!!

UH.. WOLVIE. LOCKET. GUYS!

HAVE IT YER WAY!

ONCE ALL FOREIGN, ROGUE MUTANTS ARE APPREHENDED AND ACCOUNTED FOR ON GENOSHA SOIL, CAMERON HODGE RELEASES A PACKAGE OF FILM TO ALL MAJOR NEWS ORGANIZATIONS AROUND THE WORLD DEPICTING THE ASSASSINATION OF THE GENOSHAN PRESIDENT.

X-MEN OVER DEAD BODY.

YOU WERE GOOD LITTLE MUTATES TODAY.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU MASTER HODGE.

AS A GIFT, YOU'LL GET TO SLEEP IN AN EXTRA HOUR BEFORE WORK TOMORROW.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU.

TURN BACK INTO MUTATES

GENOSHAN MUTATES GET LOYALTY TO DUTY AND COUNTRY BEAT INTO THEM FROM A YOUNG AGE, BUT HODGE STILL WON'T RISK THE POSSIBILITY OF THE TRUTH GETTING DISSEMINATED.

DEAD MUTATES

DEAD MUTATES

OUR WORST NIGHTMARES ARE UPON US, MY FELLOW AMERICANS. WE WILL ALL REMEMBER THIS MOMENT AS THE DAY THE BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS KNOWN AS THE X-MEN CALLOUSLY MURDERED THE LEADER OF A PROSPERING COUNTRY IN FRONT OF OUR EYES!

CONTINGENCY PLANS WERE INCLUDED WITHIN THE MUTANT REGISTRATION ACT SHOULD SOMETHING AS HEINOUS AS THESE EVENTS WE JUST WITNESSED EVER OCCUR...

KITTY AND NIGHTCRAWLER WATCHING NEWS

AFTER AN EMERGENCY MEETING WITH 20 LEADERS OF THE WORLD'S SUPERPOWERS WE UNANIMOUSLY AND UNIVERSALLY AGREE TO INSTITUTE PROJECT: NIMROD...

SENTINEL SQUADRON

ALL MUTANTS, REGISTERED AND UNREGISTERED ALIKE, FOR YOUR OWN SAKES, PLEASE REPORT TO YOUR NEAREST FEDERAL BUILDING FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTION.

THE CITIZENS OF GENOSHA DEMAND A WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL FOR THE X-MEN IN RESPONSE TO THE ASSASSINATION OF THEIR PRESIDENT. UPON BEING FOUND GUILTY THE WERE EACH GIVEN TWO OPTIONS, A LIFE SENTENCE OF LAB-OTOMIZED HARD LABOR OR DEATH..

X-MEN ON TRIAL

YOUR CHOICES, NOW!

WHAT SAY YOU?

KILL ME.

FENRIR

DEATH.

NAMES

ICE MAN

I'LL DIE.

CO/AT/ TOP OF PANELS

JEAN GREY

GIVE ME LIBERTY OR GIVE ME DEATH.

BEAST

DEATH.

CABLE

DEATH.

FORLE

DEATH.

BANSHEE

UM... NO THIRD OPTION HUH?

JUBILEE

MARTYRDOM

PSYLOCKE

#!@?!!

WOLVERINE

UPSTAIRS FROM THE COURT PROCEEDINGS ALEX SUMMERS STALKS THE HALLS WITH A HEAD FULL OF PRIVILEGED INTELLIGENCE ONLY A GENOSHAN MAGISTRATE WOULD KNOW...

KNOWLEDGE, LIKE, THE FACT THAT THE MUTATE KNOWN AS WIPEOUT ~~IS THE~~ HAS THE SINGULAR ABILITY TO INHIBIT A MUTANTS POWERS WITHIN A LIMITED AREA OF EFFECT.

I HOPE THIS MAKES THINGS RIGHT. FORGIVE ME...

DOWNSTAIRS IN THE COURTROOM. INSTANTANEOUSLY...

DO YOU FEEL IT TOO?

HOW IS IT POSSIBLE?

KNICK OF TIME, YOU ASK ME.

KEEP COOL UNTIL I GIVE THE SIGNAL...

THE X-MEN IN COURT

DEATH IS YOUR CHOICE AND IT SHALL BE YOUR SENTENCE.

BAILIFF! TAKE THESE THINGS OUT OF MY SIGHT.

NOW!

ONCE JEAN GREY TELIKENETICALLY DISARMS THE MAGISTRATES THERE BECOMES NO CHALLENGE FOR THE X-MEN TO ESCAPE THE GENOSHAN COURTROOM.

FIGHTING IN COURTROOM

THIS DOESN'T STOP WOLVERINE FROM DOING WHAT HE DOES BEST.

WOLVIE KILLS A JUDGE

~~OUTSIDE~~ OUTSIDE

WAS THAT NECESSARY, LOGAN?

SUCKER CHOSE THE WRONG LINE O' WORK.

EVERYBODY! INTO THAT BUCKET BEFORE THEY SWARM US!

TOLD YOU I AINT LEAVIN' HERE WITHOUT MY KIDS.

WE'RE NOT LEAVIN' ANY BODY BEHIND, SUB.

WE'LL JUST BE RESCUING STORM AND THE NEW MUTANTS FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE.

COCKPIT

~~SHUT~~ STRAP IN!

WITHIN THE GRAND CITADEL...

KELLY, YOU BASTARD!

GENERAL, FORGET THE JET. WE NOW HAVE A MUCH BIGGER PROBLEM THAN THE X-MEN.

MISSILES

IN ORDER TO CREATE CONFUSION WITH THE GROUND FORCES THE X-MEN FIRST HIT PEAK ALTITUDE BEFORE DOUBLING BACK TOWARD GENOSHA.

INCOMING AT 11 'O CLOCK!

COMING FROM THE WRONG DIRECTION TO BE A GENOSHAN PAYLOAD.

NUKES

WHERE THEY COMIN' FROM THEN?

AMERICA.

NAT ~~WE~~ WORLD?

WE'RE CLEARLY NOT THE TARGET.

MISSILES MISSING SHIP BY A MILE

MY GOD! THOSE ARE NUKES! JEAN! 'PSYLOCKE'? DO SOMETHING!

FORGE LOOKING OUT WINDOW

"IT'S... TOO LATE..."

STORM HUGGING RAHNE

STARK BLACK AND WHITE

"GENOSHA IS GONE.

~~GENOSHA IS GONE...~~

BLINK!

IT TAKES A YEAR FOLLOWING THE ANNIHILATION OF GENOSHA FOR THE FEW ACTIVATED SENTINELS TO SEPARATE THE MUTANTS FROM HUMANS ACROSS ~~AMERICA~~. THE UNITED STATES.

SENTINELS SHUTTLING MUTANTS IN SINGLE FILE.

THE INTERNMENT CAMPS BEGIN BURSTING AT THE SEAMS.

"M" TATTOOS ON EYES

TWO YEARS AFTER GENOSHA, THOSE SAME INTERNMENT CAMPS HAVE BECOME LANDFILLS OF DEATH.

DEAD MUTANTS EVERY WHERE.

PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ASKING ~~WHERE~~ ~~THE~~ ABOUT WHERE THE MUTANTS HAVE DISAPPEARED TO BUT IT TAKES AN ADDITIONAL 365 ~~DAYS~~ BEFORE ANYONE IS PROACTIVE IN INVESTIGATING THE MATTER.

BY THE 4TH YEAR OF GENOSHA'S DESTRUCTION, THE SUPERHERO THREAT TOWARD THE SENTINELS IS NEUTRALIZED.

X'S THROUGH SUPERHERO FACES.

NO THOR (SENTINELS CAN'T HURT A GOD)

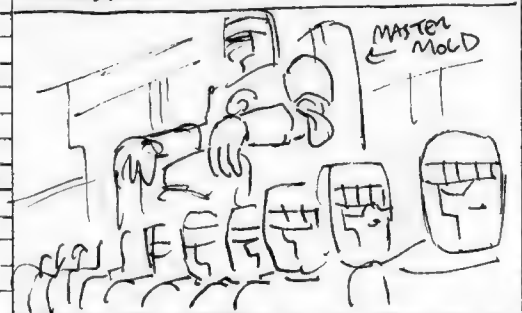
SPIDER MAN

DURING THIS HOPELESS TIME ~~T~~ THE FEW SURVIVING X-MEN ENDURE INCOGNITO AND PLAN.

RACHEL

WARE HOUSE

EVEN THOUGH THE SENTINELS HAVE MORE THAN FINISHED THEIR MISSION THEY CONTINUE TO MULTIPLY IN NUMBERS LIKE A KIND-OF TECHNOVIRUS.



THEIR ARTIFICIAL INTELLECT BEGINS CALCULATING FURTHER EXAMPLES OF MUTATION AMONGST THE HUMAN RACE. THIS IS WHEN THE DISEASED FALL VICTIM TO THE ROBOTS.

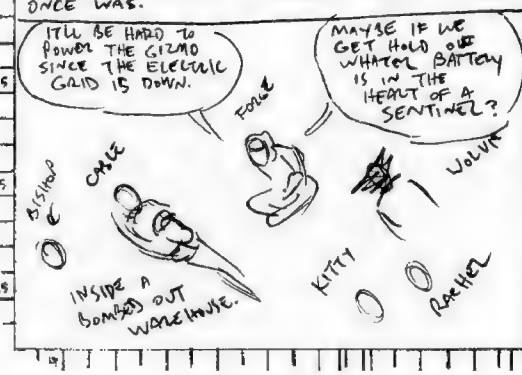
THE 6TH YEAR AFTER GENOSHA THE SENTINELS BEGIN A PROGRAM DIRECTED TOWARD HUMANS WHO HAVE SPAWNED MUTANTS.

THE PARENTS OF MUTANTS MUST AGREE TO STERILIZATION OR ~~[illegible]~~ THEY ARE EXTERMINATED

DURING ROBERT KELLY'S SEVENTH YEAR IN OFFICE THE SENTINELS HAVE DEVELOPED SENSITIVE ENOUGH INSTRUMENTATION TO DISCOVER THE PRESIDENT POSSESSES ONE OR TWO DORMANT MUTANT GENES.

PRESIDENT ROBERT KELLY DOESN'T GET TO SEE THE EIGHTH YEAR OF HIS TERM.

THE X-MEN CONTINUE TO PREPARE IN OBSCURITY. FORGE ISN'T AS FAST AT BUILDING THINGS AS HE ONCE WAS.



PLUS, THE MATERIALS HE NEEDS ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN ~~[illegible]~~ ABUNDANCE ANY LONGER AND SOME CRUCIAL PIECES ARE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO ACQUIRE.

WOLVERINE WAS CAREFUL NOT TO BE VERY LOUD WHILE RIPPING THE SACRED ENERGY SOURCE FROM HIS PREY.

THE CABAL OF MUTANTS DOES EXPECT THAT ROBOT SAVAGERY WILL BE SWEEPING THE AREA SHORTLY TO INVESTIGATE THE CAUSE OF A DEACTIVATED SENTINEL

SINCE THE SENTINELS HAVE EFFECTIVELY TAKEN CONTROL OF NORTH AMERICA, THERE REALLY IS ONLY ONE WAY FOR THESE SURVIVING ~~X-MEN~~ MUTANTS TO COMBAT THEIR OPPRESSORS.

THEY MUST GO BACK IN TIME AND TRY TO PREVENT ANY EVENTS THAT MAY HAVE TRIGGERED THE CHAOS OF THEIR MODERN CONDITION.

FORGE WAS ABLE LEARN THE FOUNDATIONS OF TIME-TRAVEL AS THE PEOPLE IN CABLES OWN FUTURE-TIME UNDERSTAND THEM. FINALLY HE IS ABLE TO CREATE TWO VECTORS FOR SENDING X-MEN INTO THE PAST.

THE TIME TUNNEL HAS ENOUGH ENERGY TO SEND TWO PEOPLE BACK TO ANY ERA IN THEIR CURRENT, PHYSICAL CONDITION.

KATE AND RACHEL HUGGING

WOLVIE SHAKING BISHOP'S HAND

TIME MACHINE

TO AVOID THE POTENTIALLY CATASTROPHIC PARADOX OF ACCIDENTALLY MEET ONES PAST SELF, RACHEL SUMMERS AND BISHOP ARE CHOSEN TO GO BACK TO VARIOUS POINTS BEFORE EITHER WERE BORN TO FLY AND EFFECT POSITIVE CHANGE.

RACHEL ENTERS PORTAL

ZAPPING THROUGH TIME

THE NEXT METHOD OF REACHING THE PAST IS CERESIUM. FORGE HAS CONSTRUCTED A HELMET THAT MAY SEND KATE PRYDE'S CONSCIOUSNESS BACK INTO HER YOUNGER SELF.

I HOPE WE DECIDED ON THE RIGHT DATES TO SEND THEM BACK INTO THE PAST.

WE HAD 3 CHANCES.

JUST AFTER KATE PRYDE'S CONSCIOUSNESS RIPS BACKWARD IN TIME, THE LAST MUTANTS OF THIS MODERN ERA ARE EFFECTIVELY SNUFFED OUT.

JUST AFTER JEAN GREY'S FUNERAL, A NEW STUDENT, KITTY PRYDE ARRIVES AT THE DOORSTEPS OF THE LOCKED AND VACANT XAVIER SCHOOL OF GIFTED YOUNGSTERS.

BEFORE TRANSPORTING KATE'S MIND BACK IN TIME, FORGE PROMISED HER THAT THE THINGS HE BUILDS ALWAYS WORK AS REQUIRED.

HE DIDN'T TELL PRYDE HOW MUCH IT WOULD HURT ONCE SHE REACHES HER DESTINATION.

THE MOURNING X-MEN ARRIVE HOME AFTER JEANS WAKE..

KATYA?

I MADE IT? I'M HERE!

WHAT YEAR IS IT?

UM, WE BEST GET YOU INSIDE.

YOUR LEGS ARE LIKE RUBBER, KITTEN.

GOD, I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU, ORORO. IS HE STILL ALIVE?

PROFESSOR, THAT KID AIN'T RIGHT IN THE MELON.

KATHERINE, IT IS HARD TO GRASP ALL YOU'RE TELLING US. WITH YOUR PERMISSION MAY I SEE WHAT YOUR MIND HAS TO REVEAL?

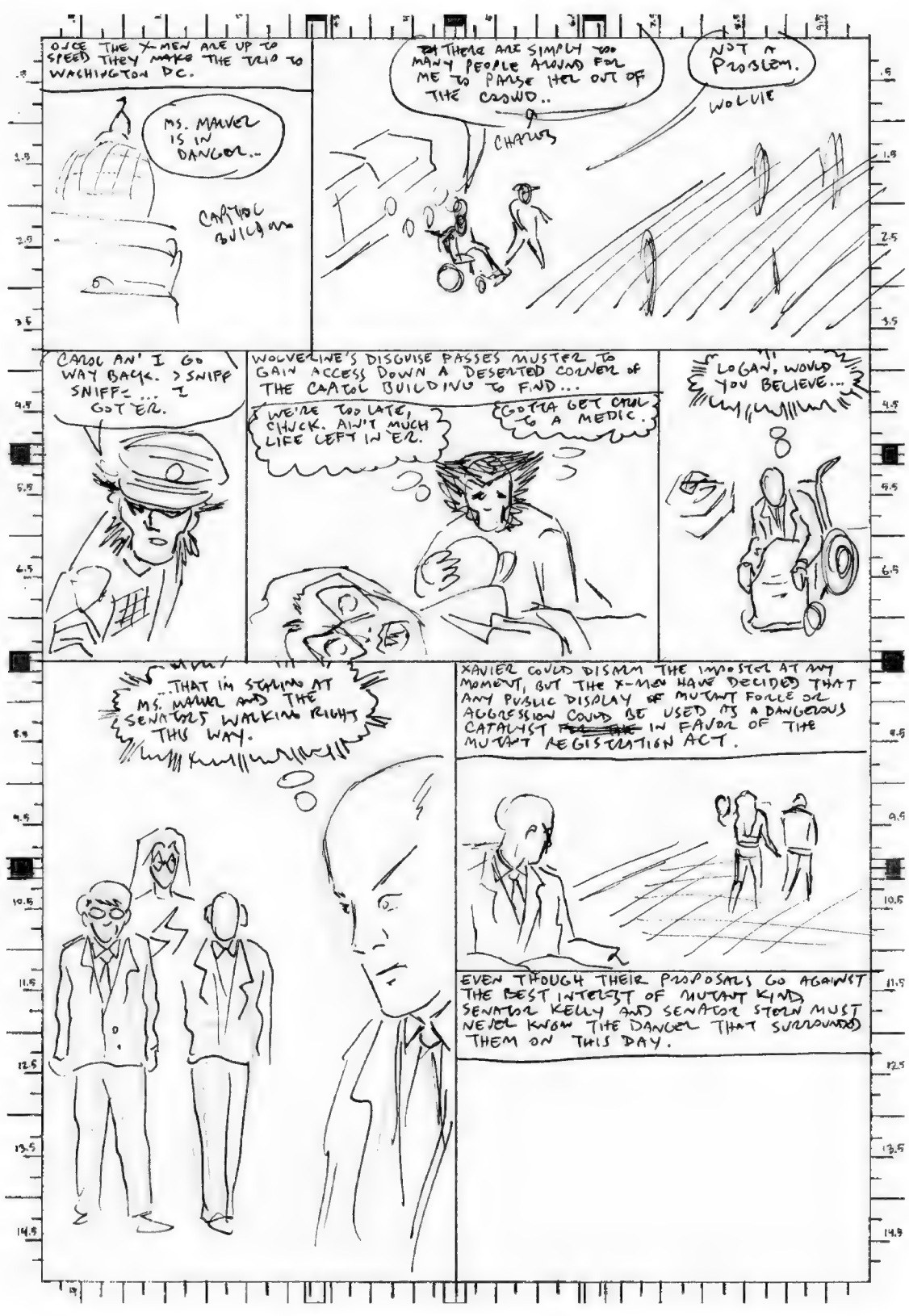
I INSIST! CHARLES

ALL OF THE NEXT 15 YEARS OF KITTY PRYDE'S LIFE EXPERIENCE HITS XAVIER IN AN INSTANT.

MUTANT REGISTRATION ACT

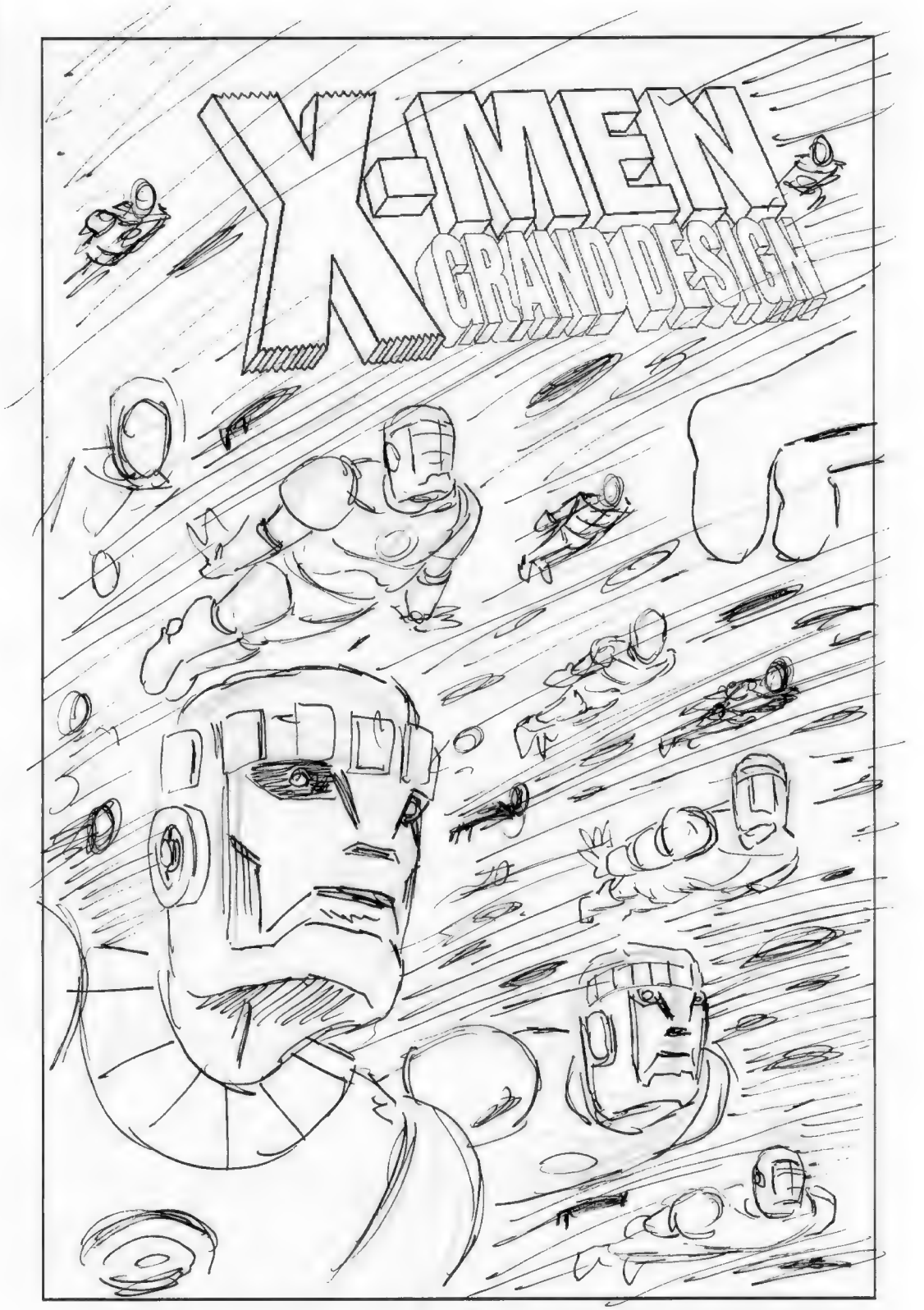
CHARLES DISCOVERS WHAT HER OLDER SELF WANTS TO COMMUNICATE...

IF WE DON'T STOP THE ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR STERN, THE MURDER WILL SET FORTH A CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT SHALL DOOM US ALL.


ONCE THE X-MEN ARE UP TO SPEED THEY MAKE THE TRIP TO WASHINGTON DC.
MS. MARVEL IS IN DANGER..
CAPITOL BUILDING
THERE ARE SIMPLY TOO MANY PEOPLE AROUND FOR ME TO PAUSE HER OUT OF THE CROWD..
CHARLES
NOT A PROBLEM.
WOLVIE
CAROL AN' I GO WAY BACK. >SNIFF SNIFF... I GOT ER.
WOLVERINE'S DISGUISE PASSES MUSTER TO GAIN ACCESS DOWN A DESERTED CORNER OF THE CAPITOL BUILDING TO FIND...
WE'RE TOO LATE, CHUCK. AIN'T MUCH LIFE LEFT IN ER.
GOTTA GET CAROL TO A MEDIC.
LOGAN, WOULD YOU BELIEVE...
...THAT I'M STALKING AT MS. MARVEL AND THE SENATORS WALKING RIGHT THIS WAY.
XAVIER COULD DISARM THE IMPOSTOR AT ANY MOMENT, BUT THE X-MEN HAVE DECIDED THAT ANY PUBLIC DISPLAY OF MUTANT FORCE OR AGGRESSION COULD BE USED AS A DANGEROUS CATALYST IN FAVOR OF THE MUTANT REGISTRATION ACT.
EVEN THOUGH THEIR PROPOSALS GO AGAINST THE BEST INTEREST OF MUTANT KIND SENATOR KELLY AND SENATOR STERN MUST NEVER KNOW THE DANGER THAT SURROUNDED THEM ON THIS DAY.

THE SENATORS CONTINUE TO DRONE ON ABOUT THEIR HARMFUL IDEAS WHEN XAVIER FEELS THE IMPOSTERS ADRENALINE BEGIN TO SURGE.
THE FAUX MS. MARVEL FEELS SOMEONE INSIDE HER MIND HOLDING HER BACK FROM BRANDISHING HER FIREARM.
WHEN THE SENATORS MENTION THE MUTANT REGISTRATION ACT BY NAME, MYSTIQUES COHORT WERE SUPPOSED TO PERFORM DIVERSIONARY TACTICS. THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN.
THE FUTURISTIC INFORMATION CHARLES XAVIER WAS ABLE TO PULL FROM KATE PRYDES MIND GAVE THE X-MEN EVERYTHING THEY NEEDED TO KNOW IN ORDER TO COVERTLY STOP THE BROTHERHOOD BEFORE ANY OTHER PART OF THEIR PLOT COULD BE ENGAGED.
OPEN PANEL
AVALANCHE
NIGHTCRAWLER HAS NINJA MASK TO PREVENT BEING TOUCHED
BAMF!
THAT EVENING, AGENTS OF SHIELD RECEIVE AN ANONYMOUS TIP THAT SUGGESTED A GROUP OF POTENTIAL TERRORISTS HAVE BEEN INCAPACITATED AFTER ATTEMPTING SOME UNKNOWN PIECE OF MISCHIEF.
THINK IT WAS SPIDERMAN WHO MADE THE CALL?
BROTHERHOOD IN BONDAGE
NAH, WE'RE WATCHIN' HIM CLOSELY.
DAYS LATER, SHIELD BELIEVES MYSTIQUE ESCAPED FROM HER CELL AFTER ACCOSTING RAVEN DARKHOLME..
WHY DID YOU VISIT MYSTIQUE ALONE?
I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO BUILD RAPPORT... MAYBE GET SOME VALUABLE INFO OUT OF THE COW.

IN A RARE, SUBDUED MOMENT...
THIS ALL SOUNDS SO WILD, PROFESSOR. I CAN'T SAY THAT I MISS IT.
IT GETS EVEN MORE OUTRAGEOUS. THE PREVENTION OF SENATOR STEVE'S MURDER IMMEDIATELY ERASED KITTY'S FUTURE CONSCIOUSNESS FROM HER CURRENT PSYCHE.
TANGIBLE EVIDENCE THAT WE SUCCESSFULLY PREVENTED A CATACLYSM.
HA HA. ALL IN A DAYS WORK FOR AN X-MAN.
ENOUGH ABOUT OUR GUTS AND GLORY, HOW ABOUT YOU, SCOTT? ARE YOU ABOUT SETTLED YET.
YES, SIR.
THE FIRST FEW DAYS WERE ODD. I REPLACED MY DANGER ROOM CALISTHENICS BY SIMPLY GETTING A MEMBERSHIP AT MY LOCAL GYM.
CYKE VISOR
DO YOU THINK YOUR NEW STUDENT, KITTY HAS WHAT IT TAKE TO BE AN X-MAN, SIR?
CLOSET WITH CYCLOPS SUIT
WELL, THE GIRL DID SAVE THE WORLD WITHOUT RECEIVING ANY TRAINING. SHE COULD BE ANOTHER...
JEAN?
TELL ME, SCOTT, ANY JOB PROSPECTS? IDLE HANDS...
FUNNY YOU MENTION IT, PROFESSOR.
NEWSPAPER
AN INTERESTING OPPORTUNITY CAUGHT MY EYE RECENTLY. I'M GOING TO SEE ABOUT IT TOMORROW.
WANTED:
A STOUT FISHERMAN
HIGH PAY. LONG HOURS. HARD WORK.
JOB REQUIREMENTS:
PHYSICALLY FIT
ABLE TO TAKE ORDERS
FAST LEARNER
CONTACT - CAPTAIN LEE FORGE
AS THIS CHAPTER ENDS, THE EARTH CONTINUES TO ROTATE. THE CREATURES THAT ADORN THE GLOBE CONTINUE TO EVOLVE AND MUTATE. I, UATU THE WATCHER, CONTINUE TO OBSERVE.
THE END.
OR TO BE CONTINUED IN ISSUE 143, WHICH IS O


X-MEN
GRAND DESIGN

X-MEN
GRAND DESIGN
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢

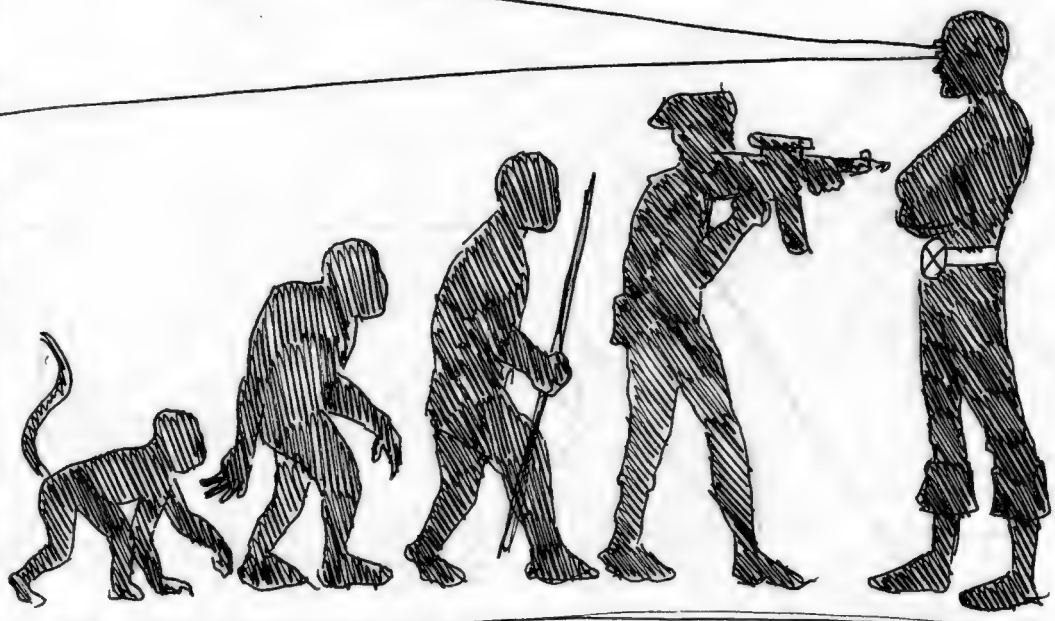
X-MEN
GRAND DESIGN
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢

SPECIAL COLLECTOR'S EDITION

MARVEL TREASURY EDITION

X-MEN

~~GRAND DESIGN~~



GRAND DESIGN

X-MEN
GRAND DESIGN

X-MEN
GRAND DESIGN

ED PISKOR 2019

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

PHOTO BY **AUDRA WIST**, USED WITH PERMISSION

ED PISKOR (1982- INSERT DATE HERE) IS A GENETIC **MUTANT** WHO MAKES COMICS IN THE SMALL TOWN OF **PITTSBURGH, PA**. HE STARTED OUT DRAWING **AMERICAN SPLENDOR** COMICS FOR **HARVEY PEKAR**. **WIZZYWIG** (TOP SHELF, 2012) WAS HIS FIRST SOLO EFFORT. HIS **HIP HOP FAMILY TREE** SERIES (FANTAGRAPHICS, 2013-PRESENT) IS THE ONE THAT GOT HIM AN **EISNER** AWARD AND A SPOT ON THE **NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLERS** LIST FOR A WEEK.

PISKOR IS DEBATING WHETHER OR NOT HE SHOULD REVEAL HIS GENETIC MUTATION IN A FUTURE VOLUME OF **X-MEN: GRAND DESIGN**.

NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR **ED PISKOR** (**HIP HOP FAMILY TREE, WIZZYWIG**) TAKES YOU ON A PULSE-POUNDING TOUR OF **X-MEN** HISTORY UNLIKE ANYTHING YOU'VE EVER EXPERIENCED BEFORE, AN INTRICATE LABOR OF LOVE THAT STITCHES TOGETHER HUNDREDS OF CLASSIC AND OBSCURE STORIES INTO ONE SEAMLESS **X-MEN** MASTERPIECE.

"THIS IS THE PERFECT PRIMER FOR ANY FAN, YOUNG OR OLD. ACHIEVING ALL-NEW HEIGHTS OF ADVENTURE AND UNDERSTANDING FOR THE X-UNIVERSE. BRILLIANT, BRILLIANT WORK BY **ED PISKOR**."

— **ROB LIEFELD**
(DEADPOOL: BAD BLOOD)

"...SEEING THE ICONIC **X-MEN** FILTERED THROUGH HIS SINGULAR VISION IS THE SORT OF COMIC BOOK PROJECT THAT YOU CAN USUALLY ONLY DREAM ABOUT. BUT THIS DREAM IS REAL AND IT IS A THING TO BEHOLD."

— **JEFF LEMIRE**
(THANOS, MOON KNIGHT)

COLLECTING *X-MEN: GRAND DESIGN #1-2*, *X-MEN: GRAND DESIGN — SECOND GENESIS #1-2* AND *X-MEN: GRAND DESIGN — X-TINCTION #1-2* — PLUS MASTERFULLY RECOLORED REPRINTS OF *X-MEN (1963) #1*, *GIANT-SIZE X-MEN (1975) #1* AND *UNCANNY X-MEN (1981) #268*.

T+

MARVEL